



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

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MEMORANDUM TO FAMILY MEMBERS, VETERANS AND CONCERNED CITIZENS

FROM: *AB* Ann Mills Griffiths, Executive Director

SUBJECT: REPORT ON TRIP TO SOUTHEAST ASIA

DATE: August 17, 1987

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
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EN ROUTE: As reported in the July 27th League Newsletter, General John W. Vessey, Jr., named by the President as his special POW/MIA emissary, was to meet in Hanoi with Vietnamese officials August 1st-3rd. The U.S. delegation included General Robert Kingston, USA-Retired, first commanding officer of the Joint Casualty Resolution Center (JCRC), National Security Council Director for Asian Affairs Richard Childress, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs David Lambertson, Brigadier General Steve Crocker, USAF, representing the Department of Defense, Colonel Andre Sauvageot, USA-Retired, official interpreter, and I represented the families as Executive Director of the League.

The delegation departed Andrews Air Force Base on July 28th on a Presidential fleet aircraft. At Hickam Air Force Base, in Hawaii, the delegation was met by Admiral Ronald J. Hays, USN, Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Forces, before going by helicopter to Naval Air Station Barbers Point for a comprehensive briefing at JCRC Headquarters. A second short helicopter flight delivered the delegation to the Fort Shafter location of the Central Identification Laboratory (CIL) where a thorough briefing on their improved capabilities was conducted as well as a tour of the scientific lab and computer data base facilities.

Departing early the next morning, the delegation had a brief refueling stop at Anderson Air Force Base, Guam, before arriving in Bangkok, Thailand, late on the afternoon of July 30th, to be met by U.S. Ambassador to Thailand William A. Brown. The following day was filled with briefings at the U.S. Embassy, a luncheon for General Vessey, the delegation and senior Thai officials at the Ambassador's residence and final preparations for the meetings in Hanoi.

Upon arrival at Noi Bai Airport, the delegation was met by Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien and other Vietnamese officials. We stayed at the Foreign Ministry Guest House where POW/MIA delegations have stayed since 1984.

Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers Nguyen Co Thach (also Foreign Minister) led the Vietnamese delegation which included Deputy Foreign Minister Nien, the Director and Deputy Director for North American Affairs and other Vietnamese officials.

Numerous plenary sessions were held in addition to more restricted discussions. The resultant agreements included Vietnam's pledge to renew POW/MIA cooperation, focusing initially on the discrepancy cases and those listed as died in captivity in the south. Both governments reaffirmed that cooperation on POW/MIA and other humanitarian issues would be pursued separate from political matters

such as normalization of relations, aid or trade, a particularly important agreement for us, to prevent a complete halt in progress. Specific measures were agreed upon to accelerate progress toward accounting for missing Americans and to address certain humanitarian concerns of Vietnam. Meetings of experts on these issues will take place in the near future - a technical team (JCRC and CIL) to discuss next steps to resolve the POW/MIA issue, and a separate meeting of qualified experts to study specific humanitarian issues of concern to Vietnam.

Comment: General Vessey's preparation for this mission was comprehensive and thorough. The sessions were detailed, candid and constructive. Negative rhetoric was conspicuous by its absence, and both sides appeared determined to reach agreements for increased cooperation. Concrete results in the short term are important in building confidence in the process. Both governments recognize the policy restraints each faces; however, there was mutual agreement that through a realistic approach and cooperation on a humanitarian basis, a solid foundation can be established for future progress.

Public remarks were limited to the published joint statement provided below due to General Vessey's need to report first to the President. That important meeting was held on August 10th at the White House, after which General Vessey responded to questions from the media.

Upon returning to Bangkok and prior to his departure for the United States, General Vessey and the delegation were received by Thai Premier General Prem Tinsulanon, Army Commander in Chief General Chaovalit, Deputy Prime Minister General Tienchai, Deputy Foreign Minister Prapas and others. I was also invited to a dinner on August 4th for Admiral Ronald J. Hays, USN, Commander in Chief of U.S. Pacific Forces, hosted by Ambassador Brown. Admiral Hays is responsible operationally for JCRC. This dinner, also, was heavily attended by high ranking Thai officials.

JOINT US/SRV STATEMENT 8/3/87

US and Vietnamese delegations have held detailed, candid and constructive talks on humanitarian issues.

Both sides agreed that such issues should not be linked to broader political questions such as normalization, or to economic aid.

Specific measures were agreed upon to accelerate progress toward accounting for Americans missing in Vietnam, and to address certain urgent humanitarian concerns of Vietnam.

- In particular, meetings of experts on these issues will take place in the near future; one to discuss next steps to resolve the POW/MIA issue; and one to discuss urgent Vietnamese humanitarian concerns.

The two sides have undertaken to work methodically and seriously on these humanitarian issues.

MEETINGS IN VIENTIANE: A delegation, led by Richard Childress, Director of Asian Affairs, National Security Council, met with Lao officials August 10th-12th in Vientiane. The delegation included Shepard Lowman, State Department Director for Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, and I again represented the

League. We paid a courtesy call on Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseut on the final day of negotiations.

The Lao delegation, led by Vice Foreign Minister Soubanh Srithirath, included Director of Department Two (North American Affairs) Sombat Chounlamang and former Lao Charge in Washington Bounkeut Sangsomsak, as well as other Lao officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defense.

During the several sessions held in an atmosphere of frankness, both sides agreed to further talks (hosted by the U.S. Embassy with JCRC personnel) in the near future to implement agreements reached. The U.S. delegation reaffirmed League and official opposition to private, irresponsible efforts that interfere with government-to-government cooperation, and the Lao Government agreed to resume humanitarian cooperation with the U.S. to resolve the fate of Americans still missing and unaccounted for in Lao territory. The U.S. Government acknowledged the humanitarian problems of Laos and agreed to work within its capability to respond to them.

Comment: As with the outcome of negotiations in Vietnam, there is reason for some optimism that POW/MIA cooperation is resuming in a concrete way; however, real results can only be measured later. It does appear that the process is on track for now, tediously slow as the results have been in answering lingering questions on the live POW and accounting issues.

US/LAO JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

In responding to the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the LPDR, the United States Delegation, headed by Mr. Richard Childress, Director of Asian Affairs, National Security Council of the United States, visited Vientiane from August 10-12th, 1987. On this occasion Mr. Childress and the delegation paid a courtesy call on H.E. Phoun Sipaseut, Deputy Chairman of The Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs. During their visit the United States Delegation held talks with the Lao Delegation, headed by Mr. Soubanh Srithirath, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the LAO PDR (Lao Peoples Democratic Republic).

The talks between the two sides have proceeded in an atmosphere of frankness, and efforts have been made to increase mutual understanding. Both sides agreed to further talks in the near future to implement agreements reached.

Both sides reaffirmed their respect for their principles of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity in their relations.

The U.S. Government reaffirmed its opposition to private, irresponsible efforts that interfere with government-to-government cooperation.

The Lao Government agreed to resume humanitarian cooperation with the United States on the issue of Americans still missing and unaccounted for in Lao territory.

The United States Government acknowledged the humanitarian problems of Laos and agreed to work within its capability to respond to them.

The two sides also exchanged views on other issues of mutual interest. On the subject of narcotics, both sides recognized the seriousness of the problem and reaffirmed their intention to contribute to the international effort to combat it.

Mr. Soubanh Srithirath was pleased to accept the invitation of the U.S. Government to visit Washington at an appropriate time.

ASSESSMENT: A practical fact is that Vietnam and Laos must recognize their interests would be poorly served by any attempt to manipulate the agreements reached. POW/MIA priority has caused much greater U.S. Government focus on Indochina than would otherwise have been evident. Cynical exploitation now, in the wake of these latest U.S. initiatives, would undoubtedly be condemned by the Congress (which supported the Vessey mission by acclamation), the media, the American people and, of course, all of us, the POW/MIA families.

Hopefully, commitments made will be implemented seriously by Vietnam and Laos. Their actions in the coming months should be closely scrutinized. I am confident that the U.S. Government will honor agreements and respond appropriately, not as a direct quid pro quo on POW/MIA cooperation, but in an effort to improve mutual cooperation. Given the past, the American people are rightfully skeptical about the intentions of Vietnam and Laos. We will await the outcome of recent agreements, hoping for the sake of all involved, that Vietnam and Laos will break from the past and recognize that this opportunity to honestly and straightforwardly cooperate may not be repeated soon.

Special Note: Discussion during this trip raised a unique problem with which we, the families, can help. Individual requests from family members for priority consideration as cases to present for excavation or unilateral investigation are understandable; however, selections are made on the basis of potential results. Compelling reasons for presentation vary, but include physical accessibility to the incident site, whether there is a fixed location, sensitivity in a given area by the host government, potential for recovery of significant remains and personal effects, the extent to which a site is believed or known to have been disturbed, etc. In short, the selection rationale for excavation proposals is based on practicality and prognosis for success. Excavations have been all too few: two in Laos which were very successful; one in Vietnam which had good cooperation but resulted in no accountability. Sensitivity to family member concerns cannot and should not be the prevailing factor in making such decisions.

The same holds true for follow-up questions on specific circumstances of loss or recovery on Americans whose remains have been returned and identified. As much as each of us may want to know all possible details about a loved one now accounted for, if all family member requests for the such details were granted, it would reduce the opportunity to present other cases which might result in the return of another American to his family. Discussion time in technical meetings is extremely limited and, therefore, is carefully structured to maximize results. Countless follow-up questions are pursued, such as seeking an accounting for Americans on whom only ID cards or other personal effects have been returned. Sad as is a loved one's death, an accounting brings peace of mind. Those whose loved ones have been accounted for can help those of us still seeking answers by accepting for now a lack of more detailed information.

10-15-87
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TESTIMONY OF ANN MILLS GRIFFITHS

BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON

ASIAN & PACIFIC AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SEPTEMBER 30, 1987

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Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee and Task Force, I welcome this opportunity to share the League's views with those of you in the Congress most directly involved in the POW/MIA issue. Hearings are useful to establish for the record where we stand in efforts to resolve the fates of 2,413 Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

I have had the privilege of representing the families on numerous trips to Vietnam and Laos to meet with officials in both countries, as well as implementing the League's role in development of current US Government policy to resolve the issue. This has included advocacy to develop bipartisan support in the Congress. The League shares General Vessey's appreciation for the strongly supportive and unified message sent by the Congress to Vietnam and to the American people in support of this Presidential mission.

In some respects, the Vessey mission was different from prior trips, very similar in others. It was very unlike the advance trip in late May, led by National Security Council Director of Asian Affairs Richard Childress. The discussions during that mission were extremely difficult, but managed to set the agenda and reestablished with the Vietnamese Government what I believe, is fundamentally important to resolving this humanitarian issue, separation of the cooperation on the POW/MIA issue from political differences which divide the US and Vietnam. During this mission, I was gratified to hear this separation repeatedly affirmed to General Vessey by Vice Premier Nguyen Co Thach.

The Vessey mission was unique due to the level of the US delegation, though most Vietnamese officials with whom discussions were held were well known interlocutors from previous visits, especially Vice Premier Thach. Minister Thach was expansive and cordial throughout the three days of discussions. All plenary sessions were conducted in English, without interpretation being necessary other than an occasional clarification. This, of course, facilitated speed and directness in communication.

Vietnamese commitments to resolve discrepancy cases are significant and were also included as a priority in their own 1985 two-year plan. I am cautiously optimistic that agreements reached as visibly and at such a high level will be implemented. In earlier negotiations, the Vietnamese had referred in general to the need for US responsiveness to humanitarian concerns of their people. On this mission, Vice Premier Thach and his delegation gave specific definition to that generality, and the US was prepared to respond. The League supports fully the agreements reached by the US Government. In our view, they do not place the POW/MIA issue into conflict with other foreign policy interests.

We believe that any conflict between US policy to resolve the POW/MIA issue and US foreign policy endangers progress and the priority this issue now enjoys. What has brought progress thus far, limited though it has been, is the reality that cooperation is in Vietnam's interest, to preposition them for an improvement in relations once the difficult Cambodia problem is resolved.

US agreement to address Vietnam's humanitarian concerns within overall policy is a positive signal from America and a significant step. Putting the Vietnam War behind the people of both nations is a catharsis which needs to come; however, unresolved problem of our missing relatives is still with us. As long as this situation exists, putting the war behind will not be achievable. For America, and for the families, the future must include resolving the many questions which still exist about our POW/MIAs.

The agreements reached are encouraging, but the vast majority of the 3,500 families which comprise the League are realistic. We recognize that commitments have been made and broken in the past, and some prior commitments made by Hanoi have not been implemented; however, the steps taken by both sides since the Vessey mission are a positive indication that progress will be made in the short term. The three remains repatriated on September 24th, if identified as Americans, will end the uncertainty of their families. The League is grateful for those answers as we are for all information received. We hope that cooperation will increase dramatically and that greater progress can be made quickly. We recognize that each of you here, and certainly the President, the Vice President, Secretaries Shultz and Weinberger and countless individuals in positions of leadership as well as the American people share that hope.

We must remain vigilant, however, that the POW/MIA issue and our ability to address Vietnam's humanitarian concerns do not become directly linked. Should Hanoi choose to link these issues, I'm afraid this hopeful initiative could fail. The US and Vietnamese governments have agreed they will pursue separate paths -- that is essential!

There are other real dangers to priority efforts now being made to accomplish these goals, to include actions by some Members of Congress which, in our view, poorly serve the objective, though we are confident that their concern is genuine.

Legislation such as that introduced by Representative Bob Smith, to publicly release sensitive intelligence on the live prisoner issue, defies logic and is strongly opposed by the League. As a matter of US Government policy, the family members receive all information which does or may pertain to their own individual case. Public release, called for in H.R. 2260, appears aimed at generating domestic pressure against our own government, rather than gaining the release of Americans, live or dead. We are confident that we have the serious attention and support of the President and his Administration, the Congress, and increasingly, the American people. Generating domestic demand for unworkable solutions, rather than building support for well-thought-out strategy which is in the interest of both countries, is counterproductive.

We also oppose H.R. Con. Res. 114, which calls for the appointment of an ambassador to represent the United States in its relations with the governments in Indochina. A POW/MIA Interagency Group (IAG) now exists to develop and implement policy on the issue. The League worked many years to obtain integration of the POW/MIA issue into the US foreign policy mechanism. While

the League's elected Board of Directors just unanimously passed a resolution condemning these theatrics, offering our support for agreements reached with Laos and Vietnam and commending Thailand for their cooperation with the United States to resolve the fates of our missing loved ones.

Direct-mail fundraising, using distorted or fraudulent information on the POW/MIA issue, has increased in direct proportion to the priority and visibility. Within the last three weeks, four separate appeals were received in the League office from Hendon's POW Policy Center and McDaniel's American Defense Institute. In each instance, false or misleading information was the basis, and emotionalism was a driving factor. We also received the latest appeal from Operation Rescue, one of the most glaring and repeated examples of unscrupulous fundraising seeking advantage from current priority on the issue. Another former Representative, John LeBoutillier, used similar direct mail campaigns. This is just a sample. The Congress should also be aware that some contact Vietnamese and Lao officials directly to undermine official efforts. Their motives appear to be self-promotion but are at the expense of our missing relatives.

Other examples could be given but are too time-consuming to detail further. I believe the Congress can and should devote attention to such situations which constitute a grave danger to the issue and efforts to resolve it. Increasingly, I am contacted by credible media representatives and influential citizens questioning not only the seriousness of the overall issue, but why such activities are allowed to continue. A Congressional investigation is needed into this hoax being perpetrated on the American people before it's corrosive effect destroys the current strategy. The League has conducted preliminary studies and found that these operations are not small time, but run into millions of dollars. Proper filings, tax-exempt status and reporting are questionable in some cases and do not come close to what we consider normal or acceptable standards for non-profit organizations.

There are further steps which could be taken by the Congress to aid ongoing efforts on the issue. Just prior to our 18th Annual Meeting, the League's membership passed a resolution calling on the Congress to "establish specific programs to actively counter misinformation and unfounded allegations, to ensure that the families and the American people understand fully the seriousness of the POW/MIA issue rather than being victimized by false claims or promises and fraudulent fundraising efforts." We have been pleased to see that Task Force Chairman Lagomarsino has instituted regular updates to all Members of Congress, some of whom are regularly targeted by misinformation, which is most helpful in addressing this problem.

Oversight by the Congress should also extend beyond monitoring what the executive branch is doing and must also focus on the private sector. Activities now taking place are harmful to the issue, and the Congress has a proper role in exposing irresponsibility which adversely affects a bipartisan-supported objective of the Congress. Continued bipartisan support can also ensure that the priority now in place extends beyond the upcoming election, through the transition and into a new administration, regardless of the outcome.

The executive branch, particularly the Department of Defense through existing public affairs channels and those of the military services, should be much more active in countering misinformation and distributing objective, factual data on the POW/MIA issue. Some efforts along this line have been made and are most

the Department of Defense is the executive agent on the issue, the IAG also includes representatives of the National Security Council, Defense Intelligence Agency, Joint Chiefs of Staff, relevant Congressional committees, the National League of Families and is chaired by the Department of State's Deputy Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs David Lambertson, testifying here today. The Department of State is fully represented in negotiations and coordinates on all POW/MIA initiatives. Further, with the appointment of a Presidential emissary, fully supported by the IAG, the resolution is moot.

The League shares many of the sentiments expressed in H. Con. Res. 118; however, we hold the view that unilateral steps, such as immediate exchanges of technical offices in Hanoi and Washington, should only be considered by the US in the context of full and open cooperation by Vietnam on the POW/MIA issue. We encourage frequent policy and technical level dialogue and exchanges. Hopefully, the level of cooperation would reach the point that continuous contact on this issue would be required. At the same time, the League encourages the US Government to seek incentives to obtain greater, more rapid results and to signal Vietnam of US willingness to support mutual cooperation on bilateral concerns. The US Government has, in fact, sought to create such incentives, and we all await a positive and substantial response.

There are added dangers to current initiatives which deserve close attention by the Congress, the executive branch and the League. You are undoubtedly aware of the recent reward offer spearheaded by former Representative Billy Hendon which had the support of some Members of Congress. In our view, the results thus far from such poorly conceived plans are all substantially negative. On the heels of the latest negotiations, the Vietnamese and Lao governments have both reacted strongly and publicly, announcing firm denials that any Americans are held and stating that such hostile actions can interfere with government to government cooperation. The very fact that rewards are offered complicates the issue by generating increased false reporting, encourages extortion schemes and causes potential sources to withhold information from the US Government in the hope of obtaining private compensation. It would also logically increase measures by the Indochinese governments to tighten security. Such actions only increase the difficulty of efforts to return our men, have been tried before and have never brought success throughout the history of the issue.

This situation was recently exacerbated by a theatrical stunt to generate attention along Thailand's border with Laos. With conspiracy and coverup theorist Billy Hendon, working for Red McDaniel of the American Defense Institute, again spearheading the effort, a few POW/MIA relatives attempted to release helium-filled balloons to advertise the reward. Reactions by the Thai, Lao and Vietnamese governments were immediate. Thailand predictably declined to permit the balloon release, citing interference in their own sensitive relations with Laos and their view that such an act was conducting "psychological warfare" against a neighboring country with whom they have diplomatic relations. The Lao Government reacted sharply with a strong denial that any Americans are alive, plus accusations of US Government complicity in hostile actions which could interfere with agreements reached August 10-12th to resume POW/MIA cooperation. Both Vietnam and Laos protested directly to US Government representatives.

Given the fact that Thailand is a treaty ally of the United States and has fully, responsibly and closely cooperated with the United States on this humanitarian issue, it is beyond us to imagine why anyone would put the Thais in such an awkward and embarrassing situation. I want the Committee to know that

DIA had "thrown out because there's no cistern in that compound." As has been briefed and rebriefed in great detail to Congressman Hendon, both before and after the trip, DIA evaluated the totality of the available information, including two polygraph tests which the refugee passed, in making its determination. The responsible bipartisan committees have also been briefed to their satisfaction on these points.

There were discrepancies between the refugee's first and second versions of the livesightings. For example, during the first interview the source said he saw 30-32 Caucasians whom his friends described as POWs, but in a later interview he revised his estimate to 7-8. The source described a fortress-like prison, which did not and does not exist, a conclusion based on photography taken within days of his alleged sighting. During the first interview, the source related that the POWs were bathing in a cistern at the base of a water tower, which is located some distance from the cistern played up in the 20/20 program. From his vantage point, there is no way the source could have observed the area around the base of the water tower. The same is even more true for the cistern located by the congressmen. In addition, the refugee claimed that the presence of U.S. POWs at the location was common knowledge and a frequent topic of conversation among the local populace. DIA interviewed 14 other sources who lived or worked in this area during the period of the reported sightings. While they confirmed that they were aware that Americans were held in a camp on the next block until 1973, the sources indicated they had never seen nor heard of Americans being imprisoned there since the end of the war.

The 20/20 show also stated that this case involved Robert Garwood. After denying for years that he had any first-hand knowledge of U.S. POWs to members of congress, and League of Families Chairman of the Board, George L. Brooks, Garwood recounted to the Wall Street Journal in December 1984 seeing in 1977 a Caucasian, who looked American, peering through a door opening near a second-floor recreation room in an office building, also on Ly Nam De Street. Additionally, Garwood reportedly heard that five to seven American prisoners were held there but he never saw them. Although Garwood demonstrated he was familiar with this area by preparing a sketch that depicted, among other features, a cistern, he did not claim that the cistern had any relevance to the Caucasian he saw. No one in the government has disputed the assertion by Garwood that he had been in Hanoi. DIA has sought consistently to interview Garwood to obtain any POW/MIA information he might have. He has met with DIA personnel on only one occasion despite repeated attempts to follow up. DIA is pursuing further meetings with him but Mr. Garwood has not been forthcoming.

In the show's wrap-up dialogue, Hugh Downs opined that "governments on both sides seem to want to consider the issue ended." This flatly incorrect statement reflects an obvious lack of knowledge of ongoing U.S. Government efforts and commitment to resolving the POW/MIA issue. Because of the President's personal commitment and established policy, we are working for the fullest possible accounting of Americans missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

In addition, several credible sources known to ABC 20/20 could have provided a more objective and valid appraisal of the POW/MIA issue but these sources unfortunately were not consulted. The progress in negotiations with both Vietnam and Laos over the past few years, the upgrade in intelligence efforts, the overwhelming support from veterans and families for current efforts was ignored. Despite our qualms as to the direction the broadcast was obviously heading, the U.S. Government made every effort to provide factual information.

In the final analysis, our greatest concern is not the inaccuracies or distortions in such broadcasts, but the potential to make the issue one of ridicule. Our rebuttal of this program should be interpreted as an attempt to convey facts, and restore objectivity and seriousness to the POW/MIA issue in the media. We do not rule out the possibility of Americans still being held and will pursue it on the basis of facts, not rumor, fantasy, or wishful thinking. Our goal is the fullest possible accounting of our men still missing. The significant return of recoverable remains now ongoing also provides final answers for the families and ends their uncertainty. We hope that future broadcasts will focus more on these goals and substance than unsubstantiated claims and assertions.

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OPENING STATEMENT OF GENERAL JOHN W. VESSEY, JR., USA (RET)
SPECIAL EMISSARY FOR THE PRESIDENT ON POW/MIA AFFAIRS
BEFORE THE
HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS

30 SEPTEMBER 1987

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GOOD AFTERNOON MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS, AND OF THE TASK FORCE ON PRISONERS OF WAR AND MISSING IN ACTION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. YOU ASKED ME TO REPORT TO YOU ON MY MISSION TO HANOI, VIETNAM DURING THE PERIOD 1-3 AUGUST 1987.

BEFORE I BEGIN, I WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE IMPORTANT SUPPORT I RECEIVED FROM BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS AND FROM MEMBERS OF THIS SUBCOMMITTEE IN THE FORM OF UNANIMOUS RESOLUTIONS. SENATE RESOLUTION 255, WHICH PASSED ON 20 JULY BY A 92 TO 0 VOTE, AND YOUR OWN HOUSE RESOLUTION 231, WHICH PASSED ON 28 JULY BY A 418 TO 0 VOTE, WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN SIGNALLING TO THE VIETNAMESE THAT MY MISSION HAD FULL BIPARTISAN SUPPORT AND THAT THE POW/MIA ISSUE IS OF GREAT CONCERN TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, AND NOT TIED TO ANY PARTICULAR PARTY OR ADMINISTRATION. YOUR SUPPORT WAS IMPORTANT; THANK YOU.

IN FEBRUARY 1987, I WAS SELECTED BY THE PRESIDENT TO BE HIS SPECIAL EMISSARY ON PRISONER OF WAR AND MISSING IN ACTION MATTERS. WORKING THROUGHOUT THE SPRING, BY MAY THE VIETNAMESE AGREED TO RECEIVE A US DELEGATION LED BY MR. RICHARD CHILDRESS OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WHICH WENT TO HANOI TO GET AGREEMENT ON THE CONDITIONS FOR MY VISIT. AFTER THE CHILDRESS VISIT, THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT AGREED TO ACCEPT A VISIT BY ME FOR DISCUSSION OF THE POW/MIA QUESTION AS A HUMANITARIAN ISSUE NOT TIED TO POLITICAL ISSUES WHICH DIVIDE US.

DURING THE SPRING MONTHS, VIETNAMESE SPOKESMEN ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS ACKNOWLEDGED OUR CLAIMS THAT RESOLVING THE POW/MIA PROBLEM WAS A HUMANITARIAN ISSUE, BUT AT THE SAME TIME THEY RAISED THE POINT THAT THEY TOO HAD HUMANITARIAN ISSUES ARISING FROM THE WAR.

AS SECRETARY OF STATE SHULTZ SAID ON JULY 18, 1987 IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES, "HUMANITARIAN RECIPROCITY IS ONE THING. BUT ANY ATTEMPT TO TRADE INFORMATION ON OUR MISSING MEN FOR ECONOMIC AID IS ANOTHER. WE CANNOT AGREE TO THIS." THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS CLEAR ON THIS AND MY MISSION REEMPHASIZED THAT WE WILL NOT "BUY" PROGRESS THROUGH EITHER ECONOMIC AID OR POLITICAL CONCESSIONS. THE POW/MIA ISSUE CANNOT BE LINKED WITH BROADER POLITICAL ISSUES.

BEFORE LEAVING FOR VIETNAM I MET WITH THE PRESIDENT AND HIS SENIOR ADVISORS. I WAS CHARTERED BY THE PRESIDENT TO ATTEMPT TO GET AGREEMENT FROM THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT TO RESUME AND ACCELERATE PROGRESS TOWARD THE FULLEST POSSIBLE ACCOUNTING OF PRISONERS AND MISSING IN VIETNAM. I WAS AUTHORIZED TO RAISE OTHER HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS SUCH AS THE ORDERLY DEPARTURE PROGRAM, AMERASIAN CHILDREN, AND REEDUCATION CAMP PRISONERS IF IT APPEARED THAT PROGRESS COULD BE MADE ON THESE ISSUES AS WELL. I WAS SPECIFICALLY INSTRUCTED NOT TO LINK NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS OR ECONOMIC AID TO THE RESOLUTION OF HUMANITARIAN ISSUES. I WAS ALSO AUTHORIZED TO

LISTEN TO VIETNAM'S HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS. LIKEWISE, WE KNEW FROM THEIR PUBLIC STATEMENTS THAT THE VIETNAMESE COULD BE EXPECTED TO RAISE OTHER ISSUES. IF THE VIETNAMESE INSISTED ON RAISING POLITICAL ISSUES, IT WAS WITHIN THE MISSION'S MANDATE TO LISTEN TO THEIR CONCERNS AND TO REPORT THEM BACK TO THE PRESIDENT, BUT NOT TO ENGAGE IN A DIALOGUE ON POLITICAL ISSUES.

THE MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION WERE: MRS. ANN MILLS GRIFFITHS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES, AN MIA SISTER HERSELF WHO, SINCE 1982 HAS BEEN ON ALL POLICY-LEVEL DELEGATIONS, AND A PERSON WITH YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AND A WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE IN THIS ISSUE; GENERAL ROBERT C. KINGSTON, USA (RETIRED), THE OFFICER WHO ORGANIZED THE JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER IN 1973 AND ANOTHER WITH EXTENSIVE TECHNICAL AND HISTORIC KNOWLEDGE OF THE ISSUE; MR. DAVID LAMBERTSON, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS; MR. RICHARD CHILDRESS OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL STAFF, WELL KNOWN TO YOU AS A PERSON WITH DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF OUR PAST NEGOTIATIONS; BRIGADIER GENERAL STEVE CROKER, MY MILITARY ASSISTANT AND REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT; MR. JEAN ANDRE SAUVAGEOT, A RETIRED ARMY COLONEL, LINGUIST, AND SERIOUS STUDENT OF VIETNAM, SERVED AS TRANSLATOR.

DURING THE PERIOD 1-3 AUGUST, I AND MY DELEGATION MET WITH THE VIETNAMESE IN THREE PLENARY AND FOUR EXPERT-LEVEL SESSIONS. VICE PREMIER NGUYEN CO THACH LED THE VIETNAMESE SIDE

IN ALL PLENARIES. I HAD FOUR ADDITIONAL PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH MINISTER THACH. THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE WAS POSITIVE, CORRECT, AND BUSINESS-LIKE. PROTOCOL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WERE APPROPRIATE FOR A DELEGATION HEADED BY A PRESIDENTIAL EMISSARY.

FROM THE OUTSET I STRESSED OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE TALKS WERE TO FOCUS ON POW/MIA AND OTHER HUMANITARIAN ISSUES, AND THAT THESE ISSUES SHOULD NOT BE LINKED TO BROADER POLITICAL QUESTIONS. THE VIETNAMESE AGREED, AND SAID THAT THEY TOO HAD HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS TO RAISE. I OUTLINED OUR OBJECTIVES FOR THE RETURN OF ANY LIVE AMERICANS, THE RESOLUTION OF DISCREPANCY CASES AND THE DIED IN CAPTIVITY LIST, CRASH SITE EXCAVATIONS, THE REPATRIATION OF REMAINS AND THE FULLEST POSSIBLE ACCOUNTING OF OUR POW/MIAs.

CONCERNING THE QUESTION OF LIVE AMERICAN PRISONERS, THE VIETNAMESE INSISTED FROM THE BEGINNING THAT THEY HELD NO AMERICAN PRISONERS. WE MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT THERE ARE MANY QUESTIONS WHICH MUST BE ANSWERED BEFORE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, AND ESPECIALLY THE FAMILIES, COULD ACCEPT THAT ASSURANCE. I TOLD THEM THAT MOST AMERICANS DID NOT BELIEVE VIETNAM WAS BEING TRUTHFUL ON THE POW/MIA ISSUE AND THAT MANY AMERICANS BELIEVED VIETNAM STILL HELD LIVE PRISONERS. WE REITERATED THE NEED FOR ADDRESSING THE COMPELLING DISCREPANCY CASES, THAT IS THOSE CASES OF AMERICANS FOR WHOM THERE WAS STRONG EVIDENCE THAT THEY SURVIVED THEIR INCIDENT AND WERE CAPTURED OR OTHERWISE CAME

UNDER VIETNAMESE CONTROL OR ABOUT WHOM THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES SHOULD HAVE INFORMATION. I PROVIDED EXAMPLES OF THOSE CASES TO ILLUSTRATE OUR CONCERNS. AGAIN, LET ME SAY THERE ARE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED. I BELIEVE THE VIETNAMESE UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF ANSWERING THOSE QUESTIONS.

THE VIETNAMESE SIDE ASSERTED THAT THEY ALSO HAD "HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS" STEMMING FROM THE WAR, AND PROCEEDED TO OUTLINE THEM IN BROAD TERMS. FOR EXAMPLE, THEY SAID THEY HAD 1.4 MILLION WAR DISABLED, 500,000 ORPHANS, AND MANY DESTROYED SCHOOLS AND DAMAGED HOSPITALS. THEY STRESSED THAT THESE TOO WOULD HAVE TO BE ADDRESSED IF THERE IS TO BE PROGRESS ON THE HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS OF THE US SIDE. I MADE CLEAR THAT THE UNITED STATES COULD NOT AND WOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO SOLVE VIETNAM'S PROBLEMS STEMMING FROM THE WAR, BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THE POSSIBILITY OF COOPERATION IN SPECIFIC AREAS. IN SO ACKNOWLEDGING, I REITERATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT ANY STEPS WE MIGHT UNDERTAKE WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSISTENT WITH THE LEGAL, POLITICAL AND POLICY CONSTRAINTS GOVERNING OUR CURRENT DEALINGS WITH VIETNAM AND THAT ABSENT A VIETNAMESE WITHDRAWAL FROM CAMBODIA, THERE CAN BE NO PROGRESS TOWARD NORMALIZATION OF DIPLOMATIC AND TRADE RELATIONS NOR ANY ECONOMIC AID.

IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS, THE US SIDE SOUGHT TO NARROW THE FOCUS OF THE SRV DEFINITION OF "HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS" TO BRING THE PROBLEM WITHIN LIMITS WE MIGHT ADDRESS THROUGH

CONCRETE STEPS. THIS WAS EVENTUALLY ACHIEVED, AND AN AGREEMENT REACHED CONTAINING THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:

-- AN SRV COMMITMENT TO RESUME COOPERATIVE EFFORTS TO ACCOUNT FOR AMERICANS MISSING IN ACTION, WITH AN INITIAL PRIORITY ON RESOLVING DISCREPANCY CASES, INCLUDING THOSE LISTED BY THE VIETNAMESE AS HAVING DIED IN CAPTIVITY.

-- WE REAFFIRMED US READINESS TO ASSIST VIETNAMESE EFFORTS TO ACCOUNT FOR OUR MISSING MEN, AND LEFT WITH THE VIETNAMESE A LIST OF ACTIONS WE WERE PREPARED TO TAKE, SUCH AS TRAINING OF SEARCH/EXCAVATION TEAMS, THE PROVISION OF NEEDED EXCAVATION EQUIPMENT AND ORIENTATION/TRAINING VISITS BY VIETNAMESE FORENSIC EXPERTS TO THE CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION LABORATORY IN HONOLULU.

-- A US COMMITMENT TO ADDRESS "CERTAIN URGENT HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS" -- CONSISTENT WITH OUR LEGAL, POLITICAL AND POLICY CONSTRAINTS. (THE SRV SIDE BECAME VERY FAMILIAR WITH THAT PHRASE, AND INSISTED ON APPLYING THE SAME CONDITIONS TO ITS COMMITMENT ON POW/MIA COOPERATION.)

-- WE AGREED TO MEETINGS OF TWO SEPARATE GROUPS OF EXPERTS TO BE HELD AUGUST 25-28 IN HANOI; ONE TO DISCUSS THE POW/MIA ISSUE AND ONE TO EXAMINE VIETNAMESE HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS.

I HAVE FURNISHED A COPY OF THE JOINT STATEMENT ANNOUNCING THE AGREEMENT WE ACHIEVED FOR INSERTION IN THE RECORD.

CONCERNING TWO ISSUES THAT HAVE BEEN RAISED IN THE PRESS, THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF ESTABLISHING "TECHNICAL" OFFICES IN HANOI OR THE U.S., NOR DID THE U.S. AGREE TO LIFT THE TRADE BAN.

I RAISED SOME OF OUR OTHER HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS AS WELL. I EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE RECENT SRV AGREEMENT TO A RESUMPTION OF THE ORDERLY DEPARTURE PROGRAM (ODP) INTERVIEWS, THEN REVIEWED OUR CONCERNS REGARDING AMERASIANS AND REEDUCATION CAMP INMATES. I AM PLEASED TO SEE THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SIGNS OF SOME PROGRESS IN ALL THESE AREAS.

ON THE WAY HOME FROM VIETNAM, I STOPPED IN BANGKOK TO INFORM THAI OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THE PRIME MINISTER, OF THE RESULTS OF OUR MEETINGS. THE OTHER MEMBERS OF ASEAN WERE ALSO FULLY INFORMED SHORTLY AFTER THE MEETING.

WHEN WE RETURNED FROM VIETNAM, I BRIEFED THE PRESIDENT ON THE RESULTS OF MY MISSION. PRESIDENT REAGAN WAS KEENLY INTERESTED IN THE AGREEMENTS WE WERE ABLE TO REACH AND PLEASED WITH THE VIETNAMESE PLEDGE FOR RENEWED COOPERATION ON THE POW/MIA ISSUE.

FOLLOWING UP ON AGREEMENTS REACHED DURING MY MISSION, POW/MIA TECHNICAL TALKS WERE RESUMED 25-28 AUGUST IN HANOI WITH

THE US TEAM COMPRISED OF THE COMMANDER OF THE JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER (JCRC), THE CHIEF OF THE ^{JCRC} LIAISON OFFICE IN BANGKOK AND THE COMMANDER OF THE CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION LABORATORY IN HAWAII. WE WERE ALSO ABLE TO IDENTIFY AND SELECT THREE EXPERTS TO FORM A TEAM FOR THE 25-28 AUGUST EXPERTS MEETING IN HANOI TO ADDRESS CERTAIN VIETNAMESE HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS. THE TEAM WAS COMPOSED OF DR. CARLTON SAVORY, AN ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEON AND A VIETNAM VETERAN; MR. FRED DOWNS, THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION'S DIRECTOR OF PROSTHETIC AND SENSORY AIDS SERVICE, ALSO A VIETNAM VETERAN AND ONE WHO HIMSELF LOST AN ARM DURING THE WAR; AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION, DR. LARRY WARD, WHO HAD^S TRAVELED TO VIETNAM MANY TIMES ON HUMANITARIAN MISSIONS. THEY MET WITH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE MINISTRY OF LABOR, INVALID AND SOCIAL WELFARE, AND THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH. ADDITIONALLY, THEY VISITED WHAT REPORTEDLY IS THE LARGEST VIETNAMESE ORTHOPAEDIC AND REHABILITATION FACILITY AT SON TAY. THEIR DISCUSSIONS WERE PRODUCTIVE AND OUR TEAM FOUND MANY SIGNIFICANT AREAS IN VIETNAM'S PROSTHETICS PROGRAM WHICH COULD BENEFIT FROM US NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONAL ASSISTANCE.

UPON THE TEAM'S RETURN TO WASHINGTON, THEY PRESENTED A DETAILED BRIEFING TO THE POW/MIA INTERAGENCY GROUP. I BELIEVE THAT THEIR FINDINGS WILL FACILITATE THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL EFFORTS TO HELP THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE IN AN IMPORTANT HUMANITARIAN AREA.

DURING THE POW/MIA TECHNICAL TALKS WHICH RESULTED FROM OUR AGREEMENTS IN HANOI, THE VIETNAMESE PROMISED TO RESUME COOPERATION ON THE POW/MIA ISSUE. OUR TEAM ALSO PROPOSED A FURTHER ROUND OF TECHNICAL TALKS ON POW/MIAs IN OCTOBER, BUT THE VIETNAMESE HAVE NOT YET RESPONDED TO THAT PROPOSAL. ON SEPTEMBER 21, THE THE VIETNAMESE INFORMED US OF THREE SETS OF REMAINS, BELIEVED TO BE THOSE OF MISSING AMERICANS, WHICH THEY HAD RECOVERED. THOSE REMAINS WERE REPATRIATED FROM HANOI TO THE UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 24.

ON SEPTEMBER 25 I MET WITH VIETNAMESE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN DY NIEN IN NEW YORK. WE EACH OUTLINED THE STEPS TAKEN TO ADDRESS EACH SIDES HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS. IT IS ONLY FAIR TO SAY THAT EACH OF US WANTS THE OTHER TO MOVE FASTER.

FOR NEXT STEPS, WE ARE AWAITING VIETNAM'S AGREEMENT FOR THE NEXT POW/MIA TECHNICAL MEETING DATE. I HOPE THEY WILL AGREE TO AN OCTOBER MEETING. IN THE MEANTIME, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS PREPARING A REPORT FOR CIRCULATION TO NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs) OUTLINING THE FINDINGS OF THE PROSTHETICS TEAM. THAT REPORT WILL OUTLINE THE NEED FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE DISABLED IN VIETNAM WHICH COULD PROVIDE SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS. WHETHER TO PURSUE THE NEEDS OUTLINED WILL BE DECISIONS FOR THE NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS THEMSELVES.

IN SUMMARY, LET ME SAY THAT WHAT WE GOT WAS AN AGREEMENT FROM THE VIETNAMESE TO ACT. LIKE ALL SUCH AGREEMENTS, IT WILL HAVE TO BE JUDGED BY THE ACTIONS IT PRODUCES. THE FIRST INDICATIONS ARE FAVORABLE. TECHNICAL TALKS WERE RESUMED LAST MONTH. THREE SETS OF REMAINS HAVE BEEN RETURNED. THE VIETNAMESE SAY THEY ARE READY TO COOPERATE ON THE POW/MIA ISSUE. WE ARE MOVING TO FACILITATE SOME NON-GOVERNMENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE. THE AGREEMENTS ON HUMANITARIAN ISSUES HAVE BEEN KEPT SEPARATE FROM THE POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC ISSUES THAT SEPARATE THE UNITED STATES AND VIETNAM. ON THOSE ISSUES OUR POLICY IS CLEAR AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO ACT TO SUPPORT OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES IN ASEAN.

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U.S. POLICY TOWARD VIETNAM

EO 12812-2
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Statement to the
East Asia Subcommittee of the
Foreign Affairs Committee
United States House of Representatives

David F. Lambertson
Deputy Assistant Secretary of State
East Asian and Pacific Affairs

September 30, 1987

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I would like to review with you, Mr. Chairman, United States policy toward Vietnam, in order to put in perspective recent developments on POW/MIA questions. I also want to discuss briefly several areas of humanitarian interest to us other than POW/MIAs, including the Orderly Departure Program, Amerasian children, and political prisoners.

General Vessey has detailed his efforts to bring about renewed and accelerated Vietnamese cooperation on POW/MIA issues. As he has emphasized, his visit to Hanoi and the agreement reached there were possible only because the SRV acknowledged that our determination to achieve the fullest possible accounting for our missing men is a humanitarian endeavor, not appropriately linked to broader political or economic questions. This separation of POW/MIA questions from those broader policy concerns is essential, and is one we are determined to maintain.

United States policy toward Vietnam has been consistent and, we believe, effective. We are prepared to move toward normalization of relations with Vietnam only in the context of a settlement of the conflict in Cambodia which involves the withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia. We also maintain an embargo on U.S. trade with Vietnam, and of course provide no economic aid to that country.

This United States stance, coordinated fully with the governments of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, is designed to maintain political and economic pressure on Vietnam to enter into serious negotiations on Cambodia and to withdraw its 140,000 strong occupation force from that country. The United States, along with its ASEAN friends and an overwhelming majority of the nations of the world, seeks a settlement in Cambodia which will permit the people of that country to choose their own government through free elections, and without outside coercion. I should add that the United States remains unalterably opposed to a return to power by the Khmer Rouge.

We do not know how much longer it will be necessary to wait for Vietnam to take the decisions necessary to permit a settlement in Cambodia. While there have been recent indications of heightened Vietnamese interest in negotiations, we have yet to see any concrete evidence that Vietnam is prepared to bite the bullet. We would of course welcome such evidence. In the meantime, the United States will continue steadfastly to support the concerted efforts of ASEAN and others to demonstrate to Vietnam the futility of its Cambodia policy, and to bring about a settlement acceptable to the people of Cambodia and to the nations of the region. We stand ready to play a constructive role in such a settlement.

Our determination to seek from Vietnam the fullest possible accounting of our POW/MIAs, and our readiness to address Vietnamese humanitarian concerns, in no sense modifies basic United States policy. Our insistence on treating the POW/MIA issue as a separate and distinct humanitarian undertaking, and Vietnam's acceptance of this definition, permits us to pursue that important objective without calling into question our broader policies toward Vietnam. We have briefed our ASEAN friends and other interested governments fully, at every step of the way, and we are confident that they understand both the necessity of continuing our efforts on the POW/MIA question, and the fact that we remain steadfast in our opposition to Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia.

Despite our profound political differences with Vietnam, General Vessey's mission and its aftermath have shown that it is possible to establish effective working relationships on humanitarian matters. In addition to the POW/MIA issue, recent developments in several other humanitarian areas have been encouraging.

After a nearly eighteen-month hiatus in cooperation on the Orderly Departure Program, American and Vietnamese technical teams met again in July and reached an agreement permitting the

resumption of ODP processing and interviewing. The negotiations to put this program back on track were lengthy; nonetheless, we are satisfied with the resulting agreement and encouraged by what may be a renewed Vietnamese commitment to the program. A team of American consular officers has just completed the first set of interviews in Ho Chi Minh City under the newly agreed procedures, and we expect some of those approved to depart Vietnam within the next month or so.

Equally encouraging, we have reached agreement in principle for the resumption of processing and emigration of Amerasian children and their close family members. There is some work yet to do in ironing out technical details, but we are hopeful that this program too will begin to move.

There have also been promising developments on the Political Prisoner issue. The Vietnamese government recently announced the release of 480 "re-education camp" inmates previously associated with the Saigon government. In terms of both the numbers of prisoners involved and their seniority -- as well as the press coverage permitted -- this prisoner release differed significantly from previous Vietnamese practice. We welcomed this step, and have expressed the hope that all remaining political prisoners will be freed and

allowed to emigrate with their close family members if they wish. As President Reagan announced in 1984, we are prepared to consider all of these people and their close family members for resettlement in the United States.

Much remains to be achieved in all of these areas. But recent progress has been significant, and we hope it will continue.



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

1608 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 223-6846

October 6, 1987

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VESSEY-NIEN MEET IN NEW YORK: On September 25th, Presidential Emissary General John Vessey, Jr., met in New York with Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien. As in August, the delegation included NSC, State, DOD and League representatives. To quote from General Vessey's September 30th testimony before congress, "We each outlined the steps taken to address each side's humanitarian concerns. It is only fair to say that each of us wants the other to move faster." This brief statement accurately portrays the discussions held to follow up earlier negotiations and agreements reached.

REMAINS RETURNED: On September 24th, Vietnam turned over to U.S. officials in Hanoi three remains believed to be those of Americans. Tentative identifications were provided, and the families were notified in accordance with current U.S. Government policy. During the Subcommittee hearing on September 30th, General Vessey stated that this return was encouraging in that the tentative identifications given indicate that these 3 were among the 224 case narratives turned over to the Vietnamese in conjunction with his visit in early August. In addition, the Vietnamese provided circumstantial information regarding the individuals concerned. The 3 remains are now at the CIL undergoing the identification process.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE: Under the full disclosure policy in effect since 1982, next-of-kin may call the Service Casualty Office to determine when your relative's case file narrative has been presented to Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia. This includes the recent Vessey Mission. Despite initial Pentagon confusion transmitted to the Casualty Offices, there has been no change in policy. Some family members do not wish to be notified unless there is a substantive change in status; therefore, notification is not automatic, and family members must initiate the request. Case file narratives have consistently been turned over during meetings with the Vietnamese and Lao.

TWO MEETINGS OF EXPERTS HELD IN HANOI: As agreed between Presidential Emissary General Vessey and Vietnamese Vice Premier Thach, two teams of American and Vietnamese experts met in Hanoi August 25-28th. The POW/MIA technical team was comprised of Joint Casualty Resolution Center (JCRC) and Central Identification Laboratory (CIL) personnel, led by LTC Joe Harvey, USA. The POW/MIA team was informed that the three remains, referenced above, had been recovered and would be returned to the United States.

The other team was led by Dr. Carl Savory, noted orthopaedic surgeon from the Hughston Medical Clinic in Georgia, Fred Downs, Veterans Administration expert on prosthetics and rehabilitation, plus Dr. Larry Ward, representing non-governmental, humanitarian organizations. This team met with their Vietnamese counterparts to study the problem of Vietnamese disabled and has now completed their report to the US Government. After obtaining additional

information on the prosthetics situation in Vietnam, a report will be issued by the USG to American non-governmental organizations (NGO's). Any decision to assist Vietnam in meeting prosthetics needs will be made independent of the USG, and no official funds will be involved.

AFTERMATH OF VESSEY MISSION: Following on the heels of the two technical sessions held in Hanoi, the NEW YORK TIMES mistakenly reported that the US Government intended to provide humanitarian assistance to Vietnam in exchange for cooperation in resolving the POW/MIA issue. They also reported that the US intended to lift the trade embargo as part of the process. This September 6th report is untrue; however, there was significant reaction since the NEW YORK TIMES is read widely for information on international relations. The State Department issued a correction, part of which was carried the next day in the NEW YORK TIMES. A UPI release noted that Vietnam is covered under the US Trading with the Enemy Act which forbids all imports and exports except for certain humanitarian aid that must be authorized by specific government licenses, adding that US Treasury regulations also prohibit the transfer of any US currency to Vietnam.

Asean Reaction: The Foreign Minister of Singapore was misquoted initially as opposed to what was reported as official US Government humanitarian aid to the Vietnamese. Having obtained the full text of his remarks, it is clear that he considered private (NGO) humanitarian assistance as "not out of line with our (ASEAN) approach to the whole question of aid" to Vietnam. The Thai and Indonesian governments also reacted by stating that private humanitarian assistance was acceptable, though expressing concern that any assistance, even humanitarian private aid, strengthens the Vietnamese economy, thus enabling continued military occupation of Cambodia. Thai press coverage also referred to General Vessey's promise that "The US will not do anything to weaken ASEAN's position on Kampuchea (Cambodia)."

Editorials which appeared in ASEAN media also questioned why the US would permit Vietnam to "exploit" the POW/MIA issue. An editorial in Singapore's STRAIGHTS TIMES stated, "The US, by allowing private organizations to help Vietnam in exchange for cooperation on the MIA issue, has given Hanoi cause to believe that such callous, cynical manipulation pays." They further noted that "Hanoi is perfectly capable of handing over token MIA remains and inducing false expectations before it suddenly demands a higher price for further cooperation. There can be no better time to effect such a scheme than the run-up to the US presidential elections, where candidates wanting to come out looking good on the MIA issue may well concede to Vietnam's demands. What then will become of ASEAN's policy of isolating Vietnam internationally until it withdraws from Cambodia, a policy the US says it supports?"

Comment: It is critical that current US policy to resolve the POW/MIA issue not conflict with or undermine ASEAN policy on Cambodia. The prompt reactions by leading ASEAN nations demonstrate the sensitivity of perceived concessions to Vietnam in exchange for POW/MIA cooperation. Other concerns include:

- Equating US attention (much less assistance) to the problem of Vietnamese disabled as any form of "reparations" to war victims or those injured by US weapons could easily cause negative reaction in America, even disassociation from the initiative.

- Portrayal of POW/MIA families as irrational, unrealistic and never to be satisfied, discredits legitimate pursuit of answers based on knowledge available.
- Permitting an erroneous public perception that US concern for Vietnamese handicapped/disabled is a sell-out of US honor or the "noble cause" for which our men were sent to war and became missing.

It is also critical to the success of the Vessey initiative that the American people have a clear understanding of commitments made, as follows:

- General Vessey's commitment to the Vietnamese included willingness to address "certain urgent humanitarian concerns," focusing initially on the problem of the disabled.
- There was no commitment of US aid to Vietnam nor lifting of the trade embargo or normalization of relations.
- The US agreed to send a team of humanitarian experts to meet with their Vietnamese counterparts, to compile information on the problem of disabled, including prosthetics requirements and capabilities.
- The results of the study will be provided by the USG to NGO's for their consideration. Should they elect to meet Vietnam's needs related to the disabled, any assistance will be provided through private channels, not financially supported by the USG.
- Such NGO assistance must be licensed in accordance with current USG regulations and restrictions.

BALLOON RELEASE: By this time, many League members are undoubtedly aware of the activity initiated by Red McDaniel's American Defense Institute/POW Policy Center, in league with former Representative Billy Hendon, recently in Thailand for the purpose of releasing balloons along the Thai/Lao border. With a few family members along for credibility, Hendon led the group to the Mekong River at Nakhon Phanom (NKP), Thailand, where they intended to release some 2,500 balloons to advertise the \$2.4 million reward to any Indochinese defector who brought out an American POW.

If there were a current need to gain our own government's attention, as there was in the earlier years, this publicity stunt might have been helpful; but now, in the midst of the Vessey initiative and with the full support and involvement of the President and his entire Administration, this theatrical amateur-hour, plus its basis (1 million, now 2.4 million reward), brought us the following negative results:

- Strong denials by the Lao Government that any Americans are ~~still~~ alive in Laos. (FBIS, September 18, 1987, on PASASON comment)

"With regard to the question of U.S. POW's in Laos, the Lao Government and people have already set all of them free. As for Americans missing during the war and still living in Laos -- there are no more of them!"
(Underscore supplied)

- Accusations by the Lao Government that the US was directly involved in the balloon incident and had purposely violated its word and agreements between the two countries. (FBIS, September 18, 1987, on PASASON commentary)

"It was only 35 days after the above-mentioned (August 10-12th) talks were held when the US side began to create a complicated problem again...no matter whether the development was originated by a private group or not."

"The release of balloons with propaganda leaflets against the LPDR constitutes an open and intentional encroachment on the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the LPDR". (Underscore supplied)

- Assurances that the "ill will" in this US hostile act against Laos jeopardizes increased cooperation on the POW/MIA issue. (FBIS, September 18, 1987, on PASASON commentary)

"How come the US Government has carried out an action that is contrary to the pledge it has given? ...This action is very improper because it is not the path leading to searching for the remains of the Americans missing in Laos during the war." (Underscore supplied)

- The Thai Government stopped the balloon release and characterized it as an attempt to conduct "psychological warfare" against a neighboring country with whom they have diplomatic relations. (Reuters, Bangkok, September 17, 1987 - enclosed)
- Both the Lao and Vietnamese governments officially protested this action through diplomatic channels.

VIETNAM'S REACTION TO THE REWARD OFFER: Vietnamese Premier Nguyen Van Linh reacted in very negative terms to the proposal for a 1 (now 2.4) million dollar reward. TIME Magazine's September 21st issue, carried an interview with the Vietnamese Premier. Following is his verbatim response "On Reports of American POWs in Vietnam:"

"I guarantee that there is not one single American held prisoner in our country. If there were, we would immediately turn him over to the US. Please put these absurd stories to rest. I recently heard that someone in America had offered a million dollars for the return of any American held prisoner of war in my country. How absurd."

LEAGUE POLICY RESOLUTION: On September 26th, the board of directors adopted the following policy:

WHEREAS, the declaration of a \$2.4 million reward, coupled with attempts to release balloons on the Thai border, following recent negotiations in Hanoi and Vientiane has once again elicited strong denials by Vietnam and Laos that any American prisoners are held, has threatened the agreements reached and embarrassed Thailand, an American ally and friend; now therefore be it

- RESOLVED, that the National League of Families condemns the actions of former Representative Billy Hendon of the POW Policy Center and six POW/MIA family members, sponsored by former POW and Navy Captain Eugene "Red" McDaniel's American Defense Institute, to release balloons from Thai territory to advertise a reward for American POWs and calls upon them to immediately cease such counterproductive, theatrical stunts; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that the National League of Families extends its appreciation to the Thai Government for the long-standing, invaluable support it has given to this humanitarian issue by cooperating responsibly with the US Government to obtain the accounting for our missing loved ones; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that the National League of Families supports priority government-to-government efforts to achieve the return of any and all American prisoners, the fullest possible accounting for those still missing and the repatriation of remains of those who died serving our nation; and be it finally
- RESOLVED, that the National League of Families calls upon the governments in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia to respond on a humanitarian basis to US Government efforts to obtain the fullest possible accounting for Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for in their respective countries, to end the suffering and uncertainty of the POW/MIA families and, in so doing, put behind them this issue of humanitarian concern to the American people.

Comment: Hopefully, the language will satisfactorily clarify for the record that the League, thus the vast majority of the families, was not responsible for setting back resolution of the live POW issue. Certainly, the League does not want the blame for the strong Vietnamese and Lao government denials that any Americans are still alive in their countries. In addition, it must be made clear to the Thai that their cooperation with the USG is appreciated and that these irresponsible actions should not be allowed to interfere. Such statements of position by senior Vietnamese and Lao officials make even more difficult legitimate efforts to return any and all Americans still alive in Indochina.

SECRETARY WEINBERGER'S REMARKS: Of interest is the manner in which Defense Secretary Weinberger's remarks at the national ceremony commemorating POW/MIA Recognition Day were covered by Associated Press (AP). There was significant reporting on the portion which dealt with irresponsible efforts of private individuals. The Secretary's speech is excerpted below:

"When President Reagan assumed office in 1981, he was determined that this government would give more than lip service to our POW/MIA responsibility....a matter of the highest national priority... initiated a government-wide effort....opened negotiations with Vietnam and Laos....reinvigorated the intelligence effort and the technical dialogue....expanded our casualty identification capabilities.... launched a nationwide public awareness campaign...renewed and re-established contact with next of kin...Full-time manning on the POW/MIA issue has increased over 300 percent. Our collective efforts, with the indispensable support of the National League of Families and

veterans groups, have brought more answers to the families of our Vietnam missing than at any time since the end of the war. But it is not enough, and it will not be enough until we have achieved the fullest possible accounting.

In all of this we should recognize that wishful thinking, unsupportable claims, and simplistic solutions--which call for buying cooperation or compromising our national security--have been damaging to our national effort. Only through a recognition that this government is serious, determined, and deserving of the responsible support of all Americans will we ultimately succeed. I hope those few pursuing their own path will join us in recognizing that their activities can actually prevent us from obtaining long-awaited answers. Should there be delays, let the cause be in Hanoi, not in America."

HEARING HELD: The Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, held a hearing on September 30th as part of their ongoing oversight responsibility, but focused on the results of General Vessey's negotiations with the Vietnamese in Hanoi, August 1-3, 1987. In addition to General Vessey, testimony was requested from Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs David F. Lambertson and League Executive Director Ann Mills Griffiths. Those who testified responded to questions posed in advance by the committee and asked directly by Members of Congress in attendance. (Copies of the prepared testimonies are available from the League office.)

Follow Up: During the hearing, the subject of fraudulent or distorted POW/MIA fundraising and other actions which damage the credibility of the issue were raised in specific terms. In the course of the hearing and in response to negative reaction by some ex-officio Task Force members, Mrs. Griffiths agreed to provide to the Subcommittee samples of such fundraising appeals so that the Chairman could request a DIA analysis of the content. The Subcommittee intends to investigate this situation, to include contacting the Justice Department if appropriate. Such a serious approach is long overdue and may be helpful in efforts to stop the practice of emotional, distorted fundraising using the POW/MIA issue.

CONGRESSIONAL CONFUSION: At the POW/MIA hearings of September 30th, it appeared that there was some confusion about the difference between case narratives and live sighting reports. Representatives Bob Smith (R-NH) and John Rowland (R-CT) or their staffs have since told the press that the 224 narratives containing 70 compelling cases, turned over in conjunction with the Vessey mission, are related to that number of live sighting reports since the end of the war. There was even a quote stating that the US Government now believes that 224 Americans are still alive, and that there are 70 "confirmed live sightings" since 1975.

There is further confusion about which narratives were actually obtained by Representatives Smith and Rowland. In fact, they were provided with narratives on 63 cases of Americans listed as POW at the time of Operation Homecoming in 1973. The original list numbered 97, decreased by the return of Robert Garwood and 33 remains, later identified as Americans and returned to their families.

They did not receive the 224 narratives turned over to Vietnam in conjunction with the Vessey mission nor the 70 "compelling cases" included in that total, though there would logically be overlap. The narratives are not considered classified but do contain information which, if released, would jeopardize serious intelligence efforts. Narratives are based on information in the missing man's case file, already received by or available to the next-of-kin.

Comment: This fiasco reflects another truth: the POW/MIA issue is complex, and care must be taken to ensure that information is clearly defined, understood and accurately provided to the families, the public and the media. Much as we would like to believe that there are 70 "confirmed live sightings" since 1975 which relate to Americans still missing, these statements unfortunately are false, the obvious result of inability to distinguish between sighting reports and narratives regularly used in negotiations. Clarification was issued by the Pentagon.

Congressman Smith's comments in the hearing confirmed his confusion, as it appeared he believed his bill (HR 2367, which the League strongly opposes) would require public release of the case narratives provided to the Vietnamese in conjunction with the Vessey mission rather than sensitive live sighting reports which, if true, could form the basis for decisive action as pledged by the President. General Vessey passed no live sighting reports on his mission; he provided 224 case narratives, 70 of which were "compelling discrepancy cases." Just as they have been turned over in the past and with which family members are familiar.

CAMBODIA POW/MIAs: Hun Sen, Premier of the government in Phnom Penh, recently issued public statements that his government has the remains of Americans they are prepared to turn over to the US, but that the US had indicated no interest. That is blatantly false! Since the 1994 Indochina Communique in which agreement among the three Indochinese Foreign Ministers to exchange information on missing Americans was publicly announced, the US has repeatedly raised with the governments of Laos and Vietnam, as well as international humanitarian organizations, US interest in obtaining any and all information which Phnom Penh might have available. In addition, the League's executive director has communicated directly with Hun Sen to encourage cooperation, including providing all 82 case files of Americans listed as prisoner, missing or unaccounted for in Cambodia.

Hun Sen has not responded to the letter which accompanied the case files, the content of which included the suggestion that he could respond through any of several international humanitarian organizations, through the Lao or Vietnamese governments or directly to the League. His public announcement indicated that he does not intend to politicize the issue. If so, he should immediately respond to US initiatives and provide the date when remains will be turned over to appropriate officials for subsequent transfer to the CILHI for identification and return to their families.

IMPACT OF VIETNAM'S RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS: The recently announced release of nearly 7,000 Vietnamese reeducation camp inmates has been reported widely as part of Vietnam's effort to overcome economic and political isolation. Coming on the heels of recently announced resumption of cooperation with the US on Amerasian children and the Orderly Departure Program, the international community has lauded the step, noting that Vietnam's top leaders realize they

have to do something about the political prisoner question before they can improve relations with the west. Most reports also noted that the Vietnamese had agreed to resume cooperation with the U.S. on resolving the POW/MIA issue, citing General Vessey's mission to Hanoi in August as a turning point.

Clearly, the US has interest in these released individuals, many of which worked closely with Americans during the Vietnam War. The USG has also repeatedly offered to accept all reeducation releases who wish to immigrate to the United States. (A few calls to the office confused this with American POWs.)

CILHI HEARING HELD: On September 15th, the Armed Services Committee's Subcommittee on Investigations, chaired by Representative Bill Nichols (D-AL), held a hearing on the CILHI as a follow-up to their 1986 session. Major General Donald Jones, USA, Commander, Military Personnel Center, presented testimony on improvements at the CILHI and the recently approved identification procedures. He was assisted in the question and answer session by CILHI Commander LTC Johnie Webb, Dr. Ellis Kerley, Dr. William Maples, Dr. Lowell Levine and COL Dick Smith. Copies of the identification procedures and prepared testimony are available from the League office.

SENATE PASSES RESOLUTION: On September 17th, the Senate passed S. Con. Res. 9, introduced by Senator Bob Dole (R-KS), to provide for the display of the National League of Families POW/MIA flag in the Capitol Rotunda. The companion resolution in the House has not yet come up for a vote, but League members need to focus on obtaining additional support for H. Con. Res. 28, introduced by Subcommittee Chairman Stephen J. Solarz (D-NY). Contact your elected Representative, asking him/her to co-sponsor H. Con. Res. 28.

VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS OFFER SUPPORT: The League is most grateful for the tremendous assistance of the national veterans organizations, all of which have recently passed POW/MIA resolutions which reflect full support for the President's policy and priority. The active, responsible participation of the veterans community is invaluable and deeply appreciated. Those interested in obtaining copies of specific organizational resolutions may contact the League office.

COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN: The League, as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, is eligible in many areas of the country to receive Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) contributions. This is an important source of funds, and most US Government employees donate through CFC. Please encourage your friends and associates to channel their CFC contributions to the National League of Families. The 1987-88 CFC campaign is now in full swing.

ARNOLD AIR SOCIETY AND ANGELFLIGHT: This Air Force ROTC and their civilian support group have adopted November 9-13th as POW/MIA Awareness Week. Events include a Ribbon Day, Bracelet Day, Petition Day and a 24-hour Candlelight Vigil, concluding with a Retreat Ceremony in which the POW/MIA flag will be lowered and lights extinguished. The League's Public Awareness Coordinator addressed their national convention, and the League will provide coordinating assistance and POW/MIA materials to ensure successful implementation of scheduled events.

PRESIDENT REAGAN RESPONDS: Following is the President's response to the League's "petition" which was signed by attendees at the 18th Annual Meeting. The President's commitment remains strong, and the League must back him fully to maximize the time left to this Administration.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Santa Barbara

August 25, 1987

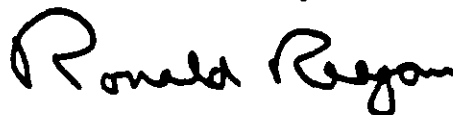
Dear Friends:

Thank you for your expressions of warm support for our efforts regarding our prisoners of war and those missing in action, and the confidence you have expressed in my special emissary, General Vessey. As you know, General Vessey reached agreement with the Vietnamese Government to resume P.O.W./M.I.A. cooperation, and a follow-up technical meeting has been held recently.

The League's steadfast efforts to ensure the return of your loved ones have been the catalyst for the progress we have achieved so far. We continue to count on your advice and assistance, and we pledge to you that we will not rest in our efforts until every one of our men is accounted for.

God bless you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Ronald Reagan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "R" at the beginning.

National League of Families of
American Prisoners and
Missing in Southeast Asia
1608 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR 1987/88 BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Chairman of the Board George Brooks has appointed members of the board to the following committees:

Publicity & Activities

Sue Scott, Chairman
Joe Dunn
Mary Carol Lemon
Mark Stephensen
Colleen Shine, Staff Asst.

Finance

George Shine, Chairman
Nancy Nystrom
Karen McManus, Staff Asst.

Misinformation

Louise Van Hoozer, Chairman
Barbara Lewis
Mary Currall, Staff Asst.

By-Laws

Karen McManus, Chairman
Joe Dunn
Louise Van Hoozer

In addition, the board elected the Executive Committee which is authorized to act for the full board in special circumstances, if required.

Executive Committee

Mary Carol Lemon
George Shine
Nancy Nystrom

LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP: Rumors have been circulating that large numbers of League members resigned in opposition to current policy and direction. This is untrue! During the 18th Annual Meeting, a form-letter of resignation was circulated which included a phrase designating the POW Policy Center as their representative. The result of this orchestrated effort arrived in the League office during the Vessey mission to Hanoi. Out of over 3,500 League members, a total of 64 resignations were received, 70% of which joined the League within the last three years, representing 24 men still missing and 3 returned POWs. It should be noted that 3 form-letter resignations were sent to the League office which had been forged, and 39 were received which had been sent in from one person attempting to resign her relatives. The League staff would not accept as valid a resignation from anyone other than the actual League member, and all signatures were checked against the membership application on file.

Comment: The POW/MIA Policy Center, referenced on the form-letter, is headed by former Representative Billy Hendon, under the auspices of the American Defense Institute, Red McDaniel's group.

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY: Response was tremendous to this day honoring returned prisoners from all wars and those still unaccounted for, but focused event-wise primarily on the POW/MIAs from Southeast Asia. The USAF-hosted ceremony at the Pentagon was impressive and well-organized. Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger's remarks were well-chosen, effective and sent appropriate signals to the Indochinese governments.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Military spies used \$25,000 on porn calls

United Press International

WASHINGTON — A Pentagon study of long-distance calls by the Defense Intelligence Agency shows the military's spies spent about \$25,000 a month in calls to a New York City "Dial-a-Porn" number.

The Pentagon's inspector general said in its semiannual report to Congress that the "potential monetary impact" from such unauthorized use of the telephones was \$300,000 a year.

After the inspector general's recommendation, an electronic block was placed against the New York number, which features sexually explicit recorded messages.

The cost of the block: a \$100 installation plus a \$15 monthly charge, the report said.

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FBI PROBING WHITE HOUSE AIDE'S ALLEGED POW PAYOFF SCHEME
BY NEIL ROLAND-

WASHINGTON (UPI) THE FBI IS INVESTIGATING ALLEGATIONS THAT A WHITE HOUSE AIDE OFFERED \$40,000 A MONTH IN AN ATTEMPT TO DISCREDIT A FORMER CONGRESSMAN WHO HAD ACCUSED THE ADMINISTRATION OF CONCEALING EVIDENCE ABOUT AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

SEVEN POW ACTIVISTS SAID FORMER REP. JOHN LEBOUTILLIER, R-N.Y., TOLD THEM HIS GROUP WAS OFFERED THE MONEY IN LATE 1983 BY RICHARD CHILDRESS, A NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF ASIAN AFFAIRS.

LEBOUTILLIER SAID CHILDRESS HAD ASKED HIM, IN RETURN, TO ASSAIL REPUBLICAN WILLIAM HENDON, WHO HAD JUST ALLEGED THAT THE PENTAGON WAS COVERING UP INFORMATION ABOUT POWS IN VIETNAM AND LAOS, THE ACTIVISTS SAID. THEY SAID THE INCIDENT OCCURRED IN NOVEMBER 1983, WHEN HENDON WAS CONSIDERING RUNNING FOR HIS OLD HOUSE SEAT IN NORTH CAROLINA.

CHILDRESS, AN ARMY COLONEL WHO HAS WORKED AT THE NSC SINCE 1981, DISMISSED AS "AN ABSOLUTE LIE" THE ALLEGATIONS THAT HE OFFERED TO PAY OFF LEBOUTILLIER'S GROUP OR SOUGHT TO SMEAR HENDON.

FOUR OF THE POW ACTIVISTS SAID THEY WERE INTERVIEWED INDIVIDUALLY BY FBI AGENTS LAST WEEK ABOUT THEIR CONVERSATIONS WITH LEBOUTILLIER, WHO SERVED IN CONGRESS FROM 1980 TO 1982.

LEBOUTILLIER TOLD UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL HE FELT PRESSURED BY CHILDRESS TO DISCREDIT HENDON AT THE TIME BUT DENIED THAT THE WHITE HOUSE AIDE OFFERED HIM ANY MONEY. CHILDRESS WAS SUPPORTING LEBOUTILLIER'S GROUP, BASED IN THAILAND, IN ITS PLAN TO LOCATE AMERICANS THOUGHT TO BE HELD CAPTIVE IN LAOS.

LEBOUTILLIER SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD A GROUP OF FAMILY MEMBERS OF AMERICAN SERVICEMEN MISSING IN VIETNAM THAT HENDON HAD ENDANGERED THE LIVES OF MISSING AMERICANS BY REVEALING CLASSIFIED INFORMATION, WITNESSES SAID.

HE ALSO SAID HENDON, A FORMER POLITICAL ALLY, WAS MOTIVATED NOT BY GENUINE CONCERN BUT BY PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL AMBITIONS, SOME OF THOSE PRESENT SAID. HENDON SERVED IN CONGRESS FROM 1980 TO 1982 AND FROM 1984 TO 1986.

AT LEAST FOUR POW ACTIVISTS REPEATED THE ALLEGATIONS ABOUT CHILDRESS IN AFFIDAVITS DUE TO BE FILED MONDAY IN U.S. DISTRICT COURT IN FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. RELATED TO A SUIT CHALLENGING THE ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY POWS.

SEN. DENNIS DECONCINI, D-ARIZ., WHO QUESTIONED CHILDRESS ABOUT THE ALLEGATIONS AT A CLOSED SENATE COMMITTEE BRIEFING LAST YEAR, SAID HE BELIEVED THE WHITE HOUSE AIDE'S DENIALS.

DECONCINI WROTE CHILDRESS LAST JUNE THAT HE WAS PERSUADED "THAT YOU DID NOT BEHAVE IMPROPERLY."

AN FBI SPOKESMAN DECLINED TO CONFIRM OR DENY THAT AN INQUIRY HAS BEGUN. THE SPOKESMAN SAID A PRELIMINARY INQUIRY NORMALLY TRIES TO DETERMINE WITHIN THREE MONTHS WHETHER POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS OF CRIMINAL LAW HAVE OCCURRED AND WARRANT A FULL INVESTIGATION.

THE FBI INTERVIEWS BEGAN AFTER POW ACTIVISTS LAST WEEK PROVIDED THE BUREAU WITH A VIDEOTAPE OF LEBOUTILLIER TELLING A CHRISTIAN BROADCAST NETWORK AUDIENCE IN MAY THAT CHILDRESS HAD URGED HIM TO "GET" HENDON, SOME ACTIVISTS SAID.

EARL HOPPER, THE FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES, WHICH FOLLOWS POW ISSUES, SAID LEBOUTILLIER REPEATED THE PAYOFF ALLEGATION "SEVERAL TIMES IN PERSON AND OVER THE PHONE ... HE ALSO PASSED THIS INFORMATION ON TO A GROUP OF POW FAMILY MEMBERS."

CHILDRESS TOLD THE SENATE VETERAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE THAT

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LEBOUTILLIER TRIED TO RAISE \$40,000 A MONTH BUT THE WHITE HOUSE REFUSED TO PAY HIM, A DECONCINI AIDE SAID. HE ALSO TESTIFIED THAT LEBOUTILLIER'S CRITICISM OF HENDON WAS VOLUNTARY, ACCORDING TO A TRANSCRIPT READ BY THE AIDE.

IN A RECENT INTERVIEW, CHILDRESS AGAIN DENIED THE ALLEGATION BUT DECLINED TO ELABORATE.

HOWEVER, HE ACKNOWLEDGED APPROVING A PLAN NEVER CARRIED OUT TO ISSUE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION CREDENTIALS TO LEBOUTILLIER'S GROUP IN 1983 AND 1984 SO IT COULD TRAVEL FREELY IN THAILAND WHILE LOOKING FOR EVIDENCE OF AMERICAN POWS.

LEBOUTILLIER SAID IT WAS CHILDRESS'S PROMISE OF DEA CREDENTIALS, NOT A MONEY OFFER, THAT CONVINCED HIM TO DISCREDIT HENDON.

"I WAS AFRAID THAT IF I DIDN'T COOPERATE," LEBOUTILLIER SAID, "THEY MIGHT YANK THE CREDENTIALS. I STILL THINK THERE WAS THAT LINK."

SOME ACTIVISTS SAID IN THEIR AFFIDAVITS THAT LEBOUTILLIER TOLD THEM THE \$40,000 WAS TO BE DRAWN FROM DEA FUNDS.

FRANCIS MULLEN, THE DEA ADMINISTRATOR FROM 1981 TO 1985, VIGOROUSLY DENIED THAT ANY SUCH OFFER OF DRUG AGENCY FUNDS WAS MADE. MULLEN SAID HE WITHDREW SUPPORT FROM THE PLAN TO FURNISH THE CREDENTIALS WHEN LEBOUTILLIER ASKED THE AGENCY TO ALSO HELP SUPPLY HIS GROUP WITH GUNS AND FIELD RADIOS.

A PENTAGON TASK FORCE RECENTLY FOUND "A STRONG POSSIBILITY" THAT AMERICANS ARE BEING HELD CAPTIVE IN VIETNAM AND LAOS. THE ADMINISTRATION, WHICH DISAVOWED THAT FINDING, HOLDS THERE IS NO PROOF THAT AMERICAN POWS ARE ALIVE BUT MAINTAINS IT DOES NOT RULE OUT THAT POSSIBILITY.

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NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

1808 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 223-6846

MEMORANDUM TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FROM: *[Signature]* Ann Mills Griffiths, Executive Director

SUBJECT: LEAGUE POSITION ON MONTGOMERY RESOLUTION (H.CON. RES. 118)

DATE: May 13, 1987

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The National League of Families appreciates the sentiment behind Representative Montgomery's resolution. We, too, have taken a position of mutual cooperation. Under their two-year plan, Vietnam had taken some steps which were welcomed by the Families. For the past six months, however, no policy or technical level meetings have been scheduled by Vietnam in spite of numerous requests by the U.S. Government.

At present, the U.S. Government is awaiting agreement on dates proposed for discussions between U.S. and Vietnamese representatives, to establish a realistic agenda and terms of reference for the proposed mission by Presidential emissary General Jack Vessey, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. It is crucial that Vietnam reaffirm willingness to cooperate on a separate humanitarian basis, not linked to normalization of relations or other political matters which divide the two countries.

Unilateral steps by the United States, as envisioned in the Montgomery resolution, should be considered by the U.S. if there are genuine agreements reached by the President's emissary and if such steps would be directly related and logistically or administratively necessary to carry out these agreements. As written, the resolution calls for immediate establishment of reciprocal technical offices. The League holds the view that such a step should only be considered as a result of firm agreements on cooperation, i.e. resolved clause (1).

At the same time, the League encourages the U.S. Government to seek incentives to obtain greater progress and to signal Vietnam of U.S. willingness to work toward mutual cooperation on these bilateral concerns.



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

1808 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 223-6846

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
September 17, 1987

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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DATE 10/2/90 BY SP5 [redacted]

Contact: 223-6846
Ann Mills Griffiths
Colleen Shine

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FAMILIES OPPOSE REWARD/BALLOON RELEASE

The National League of POW/MIA Families strongly opposes the bizarre actions of the POW Policy Center, headed by Red McDaniel and his representative former Congressman Billy Hendon, now in Thailand attempting to release balloons on the Thai/Lao border to advertise a reward for an American POW.

In the past such offers have failed, but have generated false reports and strong denials by the Lao and Vietnamese that Americans are still held. Both phenomena have already been reported. This theatrical stunt to exploit the President's serious priority, especially on the heels of General Vessey's recent mission to Hanoi and another official delegation to Laos, is unrealistic, immature and damages efforts to return Americans, alive or dead.

The Thai Government's decision to stop the balloon release is logical, based upon their own foreign policy interests and their realistic knowledge of how to resolve the issue. Thailand's expression of concern for our POW/MIAs and their ongoing support and assistance to U.S. Government efforts on the issue are deeply appreciated and recognized as valuable to the process.

The League urges the Lao and Vietnamese governments to view this for what it is - the foolish effort of uninformed and misguided private citizens who do not represent the U.S. Government, the families or the Congress. The League looks forward to serious implementation of agreements reached with both governments to move forward rapidly in a spirit of cooperation.



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

1808 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 223-6848

MEMORANDUM TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FROM: Ann Mills Griffiths, Executive Director

SUBJECT: LEAGUE POSITION ON H.R. 2260

DATE: May 14, 1987

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 10/2/82 BY SP5 [redacted]

EO 12812-2

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The introduction of H.R. 2260 by Representative Robert Smith (R-NH) causes POW/MIA family members serious concern. The National League of POW/MIA Families is strongly opposed to this bill as being counter to the interest of serious efforts to return our missing loved ones, alive or dead.

The stated purpose of declassifying live sighting reports is to provide that information to the POW/MIA families and the American people. The families deserve to know the truth, and since 1982, the U.S. Government has been implementing a policy of full disclosure to the next-of-kin of all information which does or may pertain to their missing loved one.

Release of current intelligence information which could lead to the return of POWs endangers that possibility, rather than enhancing it. No mention is made by Representative Smith as to how public release of classified live sighting reports will in any way assist the return of American prisoners from Indochina.

Such a bill was introduced earlier on the discredited theory that a conspiracy and coverup exists in the U.S. Government on the POW/MIA issue, a subject investigated by the House POW/MIA Task Force, the House Select Committee on Intelligence and most recently by retired Air Force Lt. General Eugene Tighe, former Director of DIA. All investigations resulted in a clear finding that no conspiracy or coverup exists.

In earlier years, before there was serious priority or effort by the U.S. Government, such public release might have been the only option available to gain our own government's attention. We now have full support of the Reagan Administration and bipartisan support in the Congress. There is no lack of attention or concern.

The President decided last fall to appoint a special POW/MIA emissary, and in January of this year, he selected retired General Jack Vessey, USA, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, an individual highly respected domestically and internationally for his honesty, integrity and devotion to country. His appointment demonstrates the President's unabated commitment to returning any and all Americans still held and to resolving the fates of our missing. The League fully supports the appointment of General Vessey and looks forward to further progress on the issue, recognizing that results will depend on Vietnam's willingness to cooperate, as pledged.

helpful in offsetting fraudulent claims and distortions which influence vulnerable citizens, causing donations to irreputable groups which use contributions to undermine what we, the families, perceive as the best opportunity we have ever had to resolve the issue and obtain the answers for which we have waited so long.

The vast majority of the POW/MIA families have retained strong belief in America, the virtues of our government, though the faults are recognized, and are realistic about efforts to resolve the issue. They retain pride in the service of their husbands, sons, fathers and brothers; however, there are exceptions which are sad to witness.

The POW/MIA families are also casualties of the Vietnam War in their own way. Young sons and daughters, some of whom were only toddlers when their fathers became missing, are believing in self-serving pied-pipers who have been with us since the priority was raised. Many family members have gone through this, including me. Embittered family members, recalling earlier years of official apathy and distortion, may never regain patriotic appreciation for the values of our governmental system. Vulnerable families can be victimized by those who would claim purposeful US Government misidentification of remains. Some families have even been victims of extortion.

In closing, I look forward to answering any questions you may have on issues raised in my testimony and would like to express the League's appreciation for the support of the Subcommittee and Task Force Chairmen in ensuring that Members of Congress continue to provide necessary bipartisan support for resolving the fates of our missing relatives. We are hopeful that the next few months will bring significant progress and believe that your assistance is vital to achieving that objective.



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

1808 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 223-8846

MEMORANDUM TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FROM: *190* Ann Mills Griffiths

SUBJECT: LEAGUE POSITION ON H. CON. RES. 114

DATE: May 14, 1987

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE *10/3/92* BY *SP5*

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On April 30th, Representative Frank McCloskey (R-IN) introduced H. Con. Res. 114, to "restructure" United States policy to resolve the POW/MIA issue. The apparent purpose is an attempt to move executive agent responsibility for the POW/MIA issue from DOD to State without reference to the process of interagency coordination, as is now the case. The National League of Families is opposed to this resolution which we view as reflecting a basic misunderstanding of how the government is organized to pursue the issue.

The established process of interagency coordination is the most effective mechanism for developing sound policy and logical direction for resolving the issue, always reviewing and reassessing for improvements to bring greater progress and more rapid results. It is also the standard U.S. Government structure for other issues. The Department of Defense is the appropriate executive agent for the U.S. Government on the POW/MIA issue, as almost all Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for are military personnel; however, under the current arrangement, the POW/MIA Interagency Group (IAG) is chaired by the Department of State, and the Defense Department is represented at that same level as are the National Security Council, Defense Intelligence Agency and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

We encourage all members of the House to oppose H. Con. Res. 114.

At this point, within the current policy and priority, advocating the release of all classified live sighting reports works against the very purpose for which the League was formed in 1970 - the return of all POWs, the fullest possible accounting for the MIAs and the repatriation of remains of those who died serving our nation.

We ask the Congress to consider the best interests of returning our loved ones, and oppose H.R. 2260 as counterproductive to achieving that objective.

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U.S.N.R. RET.
FORMER DEPUTY COUNSELOR TO
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DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

MRS. NANCY SCHULZE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

MRS. HOLLY COORS
GOLDEN, COLORADO

MR. WILLIAM MURCHISON
DALLAS MORNING NEWS

MRS. ELLEN GARWOOD
AUSTIN, TEXAS

September 17, 1987

Sgt.
Box

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E012812-2
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Dear Sgt.

Will you sign the enclosed petition to Secretary of State George Shultz calling on him to go to Laos and demand the release of American POWs recently seen there?

And will you help me tell the American people about the tragedy of American POWs still being held captive in Southeast Asia?

Let me tell you about hard evidence that has recently surfaced proving that an American is being held in Laos.

The anti-communist Laotian resistance movement reported just a few months ago that Major Morgan J. Donahue and five other Americans were being held captive in Kham Keut, Laos.

Major Donahue crashed in Laos on December 13, 1968 -- nineteen years ago.

This spring, a Laotian resistance fighter wrote to the Pentagon and told them he had obtained Major Donahue's name, date of birth, the identity of his downed plane, and the plane's number.

Of course, some of this information could be easily discovered with a little bit of research.

But there was an important signal in the information that proves it came from Major Donahue.

Rather than stating the correct number of the aircraft, the number turned out to be the tail code of the home Morgan left in 1968.

Major Donahue's father insists that this is exactly the type of information his son would try to

send to prove he is still alive.

But when the family asked the government what was being done to bring Major Donahue home, they were told the case was closed.

Even with hard evidence, the government refuses to act.

That's why I've enclosed a Petition for you to sign which calls on Secretary of State Shultz to immediately go to Laos and demand the release of Major Donahue and the other American POWs we know the Laotian Communists are holding.

When the Ayatollah took Americans hostage and kept them for more than a year, Americans were outraged and demanded action.

A handful of Americans were taken captive in Beirut and our government embarked on an ill-conceived "arms for hostages" swap.

Yet when it is absolutely clear that we left hundreds of POWs behind in Southeast Asia, our government refuses to act.

Your petition (and petitions from thousands of Americans) will force the government to do more to bring our POWs home.

I will hold a press conference at the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. to announce the results of our petition drive and call on George Shultz to act -- immediately -- to free our POWs.

Secretary Shultz can't ignore demands from the American people that he go to Laos and demand the release of Major Donahue and all other Americans still being held.

So please sign the enclosed petition and return it to me today. Thank you.

Now let me tell you what else we're doing to bring our POWs home.

As you know, former Congressman Bill Hendon and I formed the American Defense Institute's POW Policy Center to serve as a guiding force in the effort to win the release of our POWs.

In April, we announced a reward of \$1,000,000 in gold to any citizen of Laos, Cambodia or Vietnam who would bring a live American POW out of Southeast Asia.

The reward has generated enormous interest in Asia.

I can't tell you the specifics, but we have received a number of inquiries from Southeast Asia from people risking their lives to contact us to see if the reward is real.

Not only is it real...we have increased the reward from one million dollars to \$2.4 million!

Our announcements have generated front page newspaper

coverage in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

In addition, we have bought print ads in Southeast Asia publicizing the reward.

We will also place TV ads in popular VCR movie tapes that we hope will gain wide distribution in Southeast Asia.

And this week, former Congressman Hendon and nine POW family members left for Thailand where they will release helium balloons with information on the \$2.4 million reward just 41 miles from where Major Donahue was spotted.

We're doing everything we can think of to bring a live American POW out of Southeast Asia.

Believe me, when one American walks out of the jungle alive, the worldwide outrage will force the release of the rest of them.

But we're not putting all of our eggs in one basket.

We must also educate the American people and convince them of the awful truth.

The truth they really don't want to know -- that our government abandoned hundreds of Americans at the end of the Vietnam War and left them to rot in Communist prison camps.

I spent six years in the "Hanoi Hilton."

Major Donahue has been in his own personal Hell for nineteen long years.

I know that once Americans become convinced of the truth, they won't rest until Major Donahue and the other survivors are brought home.

This petition drive is one way we are attempting to educate the people.

But our major effort is a new half-hour video tape which features Congressmen telling the American people the truth about the men who are languishing in Southeast Asia right now -- today.

You can see this tape, called Only the Strong, on Saturday night, October 3rd, from 10:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. EDT on the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN).

I hope you will be able to watch this important show.

We're working day and night to raise enough money to air Only the Strong on TV stations around the country.

It's expensive. But it's worth every penny if we can bring our POWs home.

You and I can't sit back and allow America to turn her back

on these brave men.

There are three ways you can help.

First, please sign the enclosed petition calling on George Shultz to go to Laos and demand the release of Major Morgan J. Donahue and other Americans being held captive in Laos.

Major Donahue risked his life to send us a signal that he is still alive.

We can't turn our backs on him now.

Second, watch Only the Strong on Saturday, October 3rd, at 10:30 p.m. (Eastern Daylight Time) on the Christian Broadcasting Network.

Tell your friends, neighbors and family to watch it, too.

I'm convinced that if enough Americans see Only the Strong, the public outcry will be so loud that the government won't be able to say no to demands that something be done to bring our men home.

And third, will you send a tax-deductible contribution to help us air Only the Strong on TV stations all across America?

It will cost us \$18,225 to air Only the Strong just once on CBN.

And it will cost at least another \$100,000 to buy television time on other stations all across America.

You and I can't let those Americans languish in Southeast Asia for one more day.

We must do everything we can to bring them out.

So please, take a moment right now and write a check to help us tell the American people the truth about American POWs left behind in Southeast Asia.

And watch Only the Strong on October 3rd. You will see exactly what your contribution is being used for.

Your help is urgently needed. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Eugene B. (Red) McDaniel
CAPT, USN, Ret.

P.S. I've enclosed two newspaper clippings with more information on the plight of our POWs in Southeast Asia. You and I must do everything we can to bring them home.

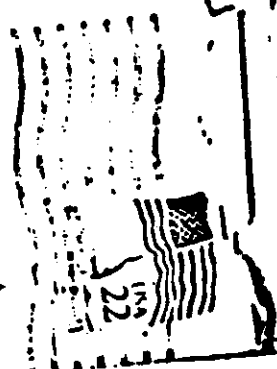
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 **The Bamboo Connection**
PO BOX 1713
Kinston, NC 28501

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Agents sue top running backs for 'reneging' on contracts □ Sports

THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

For 118 Years, The South's Standard Newspaper

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FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 1987

★★★★

25 CENTS

Children of MIAs fight guerrilla war over fate of fathers

By Ron Alts
Staff Writer

KINGSTON, N.C. — The last time anyone saw Army Special Forces Sgt. 1st Class John Bischoff was April 22, 1961. He was lying atop an armored car in the jungles of Laos, firing a machine gun at advancing communist Pathet Lao troops who had ambushed the convoy in which he was riding.

Bischoff's son Bobby was 8 years old then. He grew up watching his mother pa-

66
I want to move this issue forward. If it means getting in trouble, if it means going to jail, I'm going to do it.

— Bobby Bischoff

tiently prod the U.S. government for information on his father, watching, as her frustration grew and her health declined.

Bischoff is 33 now, a soft-spoken phar-

maceutical salesman from Wilson, N.C. He still wants to know what happened to his father, one of the first American soldiers listed as missing in action in Southeast

Asia, but he cannot be patient like his mother.

"I've never been an activist. I've never been a militant," said Bischoff. "But I want to move this issue forward and if it means getting in trouble with the law, if it means going to jail, I'm going to do it."

It has been more than 25 years since the United States began sending men to Vietnam, 11 years since we left. For years, it was the wives and mothers of the men

missing in action who struggled to learn whether their loved ones were alive or dead. Now, more and more, it is their children or grandchildren, some of them bitter and many with little patience for the pace of the federal bureaucracy.

Bischoff and his wife, Beth, are members of a small but increasingly vocal and militant group of children of missing men.

See MIAS, Page 6-A



Among those engaged in a civil disobedience campaign to draw attention to the fates of MIAs are (from left) Ted Sampley, Beth Bischoff, Bobby Bischoff, Sherrill Standerwick Long, Robin Owen Bell and Karen Standerwick Lak, all sons and daughters of missing men.

MIAs

From Page 1-A

Some were toddlers when their fathers went to Southeast Asia and have only vague memories of them. Others were not yet born and know their fathers only through photographs.

The group has mounted a guerrilla campaign of civil disobedience aimed at drawing attention to what members say is government inactivity or indifference to the fates of 2,417 men still unaccounted for in Southeast Asia. "The North Carolina crazies" is the way a White House aide referred to some of the more militant sons and daughters of missing men.

Some argue that the activism of these children of Vietnam soldiers will buy only pain and more frustration.

"It's a shame what some of these children of the missing men are doing. They are just putting themselves through the same grief their mothers went through years ago," said a senior Pentagon official, who asked that his name not be used.

The children say they have no choice.

"Many of the parents are getting old and tired and if the children don't keep this issue alive, no one will," said Robin Owen Bell, a real estate saleswoman from Fuquay-Varina, N.C., whose father is missing in Laos.

The U.S. government says it cannot prove conclusively that Americans are being held as POWs in Southeast Asia, but is operating on the assumption that some remain in captivity. Many POW/MIA activists, including the "North Carolina crazies," say the government has sufficient evidence to prove the existence of POWs but is playing with words to allow itself deniability in the event none are ever returned.

"The weight of the evidence that they are there is overwhelming. That's why the children of these men are fighting so hard on this," said Ted Sampley, a Kingston contractor and Special Forces veteran who served two tours in Vietnam.

Recent activities of some of the members of the most militant group of POW/MIA activists, which is believed to number about 500, have incurred the wrath not only of the White House, but also the leadership of the nationally recognized National League of Families of Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia and more moderate activists. Those activities included:

- Locking themselves inside bamboo cages on the front lawn of former White House Chief of Staff Don Regan.

- Handcuffing themselves to the White House fence.

- Stacking about 1,000 CARE packages addressed to POWs in Laos in the driveway of National Security Council head Frank Carlucci in a blinding snowstorm after being turned away from the Laotian Embassy.

- Giving a "Rambo of the Year" award to three women who smuck a POW/MIA flag past Secret Service agents and planted it on the White House lawn.

- Encouraging a non-violent bounty hunt for certain government officials and board members of the National League of Families with cream pies, rotten tomatoes and water balloons.

- Staging a short-lived occupation of the Washington office of the National League of Families.

Further polarizing the two sides is the publication of an underground newspaper, called the Bamboo Connection, that ranges from lightly satirical to openly vicious in its treatment of government officials and private individuals with whom its editors do not agree. The paper shows up regularly in the Pentagon, on Capitol Hill, and has surfaced as far away as Thailand.

Some of the more vocal activists also have joined the newly formed American League of Prisoners and Missing in Laos, a group that has about 300 members but is not recognized by either the government or the National League of Families.

"Never before have we ever had people ready to do the things we're doing now," said Sampley, who has spent most of the past 15 years pursuing the POW/MIA issue.

On Monday, March 30, Sampley, Bischoff, and his wife will be among six persons arraigned in a Washington, D.C., court on charges they illegally entered and occupied the offices of the National League of Families on March 6. Except for Sampley, all those arrested have fathers who are among the nearly 600 Americans unaccounted for in Laos.

Ann Mills Griffiths, executive director of the National League of Families, said the activities of this group have attracted far more attention than they deserve.

"Those kinds of efforts make a mockery of the seriousness of the issue and the priority that is assigned to this issue," Ms. Griffiths said in an interview in her Washington office.

Ms. Griffiths, who has a brother missing in Vietnam, says she understands the frustrations felt by the activists but cannot condone their actions.

"Your frustrations have to evidence themselves in something positive and that is not happening here," she said. "As frustrated as we are, we have the best opportunity now, for live prisoners and an accounting, that we've ever had."

The MIA activists include in their ranks not only the sons and daughters of missing men but also a handful of Special Forces combat veterans of Vietnam. Their activities have not been confined simply to civil disobedience and tracts.

Activists helped convince the British Broadcasting Corporation to spend more than a year researching and filming a show on live POWs, called "We Can Hold You Forever," that was seen in Atlanta in January.

They helped convince H. Ross Perot to get reinvolved in the POW/MIA issue and Perot is now quietly collecting information on live POWs.

They helped convince the government to undertake an examination of the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) to determine if they were covering up information about live POWs. Retired Gen. Eugene Tighe, former head of DIA, concluded there was no cover-up but said he was urged from last year's investigation more convinced than ever that POWs are being held in Southeast Asia.

Ms. Griffiths said the antics and efforts of these activists, particularly those of the sons and daughters, undermines many years of work on the POW/MIA issue and sends a signal of divisiveness to the Vietnamese and Laotians.

"This is playing right into Hanoi's hands," said Ms. Griffiths.

The activists say they are tired of the snail's pace of negotiations between the U.S. and Vietnam over the POW/MIA issue.

"All we want is for [the U.S. government] to tell us the truth," said Sampley. "We're going after the government to make them say they [the POWs] are there. If they do that, then the onus is on the Vietnamese and we'll go after them."

EO 12812-2
b7c



The Associated Press

CHARGES: Former Rep. Bill Hendon (right) on Monday accused defense officials in Washington of suppressing information on several POW sightings. With Hendon are retired Navy Capt. Eugene McDaniel (left), president of the American Defense Institute, and retired Air Force Col. V.J. Donahue.

Florida man says son being held as POW in Laos, cites documents

By Ron Martin
Star Staff Writer

A retired Air Force colonel whose son has been missing in Southeast Asia since 1968 said Monday that he has obtained what he believes is conclusive proof that his son was being held prisoner in Laos as recently as this spring.

Col. V.J. Donahue of Cocoa Beach, Fla., said during a press conference near the Laotian Embassy in Washington that he received two intelligence reports from Air Force officials this year indicating that his son, 1st Lt. Morgan Donahue, and five other Americans listed as missing in action from the Vietnam War may still be alive.

1st Donahue, who would be 43, was shot down over Laos on Dec. 12, 1968. He is one of more than 600 American servicemen still unaccounted for in Laos.

Donahue said the information in the report included his son's full name, rank, date of birth and the type of aircraft he was flying when shot down. But what convinced him, Donahue said, was that the source in Laos also provided the family's known ZIP code.

Donahue said he believes his son was trying to send a message saying, "Hey, this is me. I'm still over here."

But Pentagon officials said the intelligence reports were given to Donahue's family because information in them was inconclusive, contradictory and could have been obtained from various sources.

"We arrived at the conclusion that nothing can be verified or substantiated," said Lt. Col. Keith Schander, spokesman for the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), which analyzes reports of prisoners of war.

Former Rep. Bill Hendon (R-N.C.), who now heads the POW Policy Center of the American Defense Institute, said one of the reports furnished to the Donahue family came from a source in Thailand while the other came from an ethnic Laotian in the United States who has contacts with the Laotian resistance in Southeast Asia.

A copy of the DIA intelligence analysis from the second source, who was not identified, said, "The source also reported the name, Morgan Jefferson Donahue, date of birth May 2, 1944, airplane AC-123,

No. 32931. The source said that this man is still alive in the prison at Phoukhyong, Muang Khamtong, province of Khammouan."

The "No. 32931" is one of the ZIP codes for Cocoa Beach, Fla.

"The information in that second report leaves little to the imagination. It's devastating stuff," Hendon said.

The DIA report was marked "tentative" and forwarded to the National Security Council.

Hendon, an outspoken critic of government efforts to account for the more than 2,000 men still missing in Southeast Asia, said he expected U.S. officials to try to discredit the information.

"Shirley and Bud Donahue don't buy that. They've heard it for 18 years and understandably they've had enough," Hendon said.

Hendon, who has been instrumental in raising a \$2.5 million reward for the return of a live POW, said Col. Donahue will be part of a group that plans to travel to the Thailand-Laos border in two weeks to release balloons carrying messages about the reward.

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Tuesday, September 30, 1986

The New York Times

P.O.W.'s Alive in Vietnam, Report Concludes

By RICHARD L. BERKE

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29 — A Pentagon panel, after a five-month review of intelligence files, has concluded that American prisoners of war are still alive in Southeast Asia.

The head of the group, Lieut. Gen. Eugene F. Tighe, Jr., a former director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, said in an interview today that "a large volume of evidence points" to the likelihood that Americans are being held by the Vietnamese Government.

He said he doubted that the evidence was strong enough to give the United States added leverage to win the release of any prisoners. He suggested Vietnam might accept war reparations in return for the Americans.

The group's report, to be released at a briefing Tuesday at the Pentagon, found that there was no cover-up of evidence that there are still prisoners, according to General Tighe.

Last March, the current director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Lieut. Gen. Leonard H. Perrota, told a House subcommittee on Asian and Pacific affairs that he had appointed General Tighe, at the request of Congress, "to come in for as long as necessary to get updated on follow-up actions" by the Government on missing servicemen.

General Tighe said his task force

could not say how many missing Americans were alive. Government officials have estimated that the number could be at least 100.

General Tighe said the best evidence came from many reports by refugees who said they had seen Americans.

"There were as many differences as you could imagine," he said of the refugee reports. "They ran the gamut from first-hand sightings to hearsay. But when you have that large volume of evidence that points in those directions, why that's what you conclude."

The review panel included Lyman Kirkpatrick, former inspector general of the Central Intelligence Agency; Gen. Russell Dougherty of the Air Force, who is a former head of the

Strategic Air Command; Gen. Bob Kingston of the Army, who is a former commander of the United States Central Command; Brig. Gen. Robbie Risner of the Air Force, who was a prisoner of war in Vietnam, and Lieut. Gen. John Peter Flynn of the Air Force, who was a leader of prisoners of war.

The actual search of intelligence files was conducted by Maj. Gen. John S. Murray of the Army, former chief of United States military interests in Vietnam; Col. Lester E. McGee Jr. of the Army, former intelligence specialist; John Francis McCreary of the national strategic warning staff, and Roberta Carper Maynard, a management specialist of the Defense Intelligence Agency.

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**<TEXT>R W AM-POWS SKED 3-15 0659
WHITE HOUSE ASKED PRIVATE GROUP TO GATHER POW INTELLIGENCE**

WASHINGTON (UPI) - A WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL HAS ACKNOWLEDGED HE APPROVED THE ISSUING OF GOVERNMENT CREDENTIALS TO A PRIVATE GROUP IN 1983 SO THAT ~~THE GROUP COULD ENTER LAOS~~ TO SEARCH FOR AMERICANS WHO MIGHT BE HELD AS PRISONERS OF WAR.

THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL'S PLAN TO USE PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS FOR INTELLIGENCE GATHERING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA PREDATED BY NEARLY TWO YEARS A SIMILAR OPERATION IN IRAN THAT HAS BEEN SHARPLY CRITICIZED BY INVESTIGATORS.

NSC OFFICIAL RICHARD CHILDRESS SAID IN AN INTERVIEW FRIDAY THAT HE
 CONSENTED TO A PLAN NEVER CARRIED OUT TO FURNISH DRUG ENFORCEMENT
 ADMINISTRATION CREDENTIALS TO GROUP MEMBERS SO THEY COULD TRAVEL FREELY
 IN THAILAND.

THE PRIVATE GROUP, HEADED BY JOHN LEBOUTILLIER, A NEW YORK REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMAN FROM 1980 TO 1982, WAS TO SEARCH FOR U.S. MILITARY MEN WHO MIGHT HAVE BEEN HELD CAPTIVE SINCE THE VIETNAM WAR. CHILDREN SAID HE SUGGESTED

CHILDRESS SAID HE INFORMED WILLIAM CLARK, THEN THE NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER, ABOUT THE PROPOSED ~~AND OFFER~~ SHORTLY BEFORE A PLANNING SESSION IN THE FALL OF 1983. CLARK, WHO SERVED IN THAT POSITION FROM FEBRUARY 1982 TO NOVEMBER 1983, ENCOURAGED HIM TO PROCEED WITH THE ~~THE~~ CHILDRESS SAID.

FRANCIS MULLEN, THE DEA ADMINISTRATOR AT THE TIME WHO ALSO APPROVED THE PLAN, SAID HIS AGENCY STARTED PROCESSING CREDENTIALS FOR LEBOUTILLIER'S ~~COUP~~ IN LATE 1983 BUT BACKED OFF WHEN THE FORMER CONGRESSMAN AS

MULLEN SAID HE BALKED BECAUSE HE FELT SUCH INVOLVEMENT WOULD EXCEED THE DRUG AGENCY'S PROPER ROLE. HE SAID HE AGREED TO LEBOUTILLIER'S INITIAL PROPOSAL ONLY AFTER THE FORMER CONGRESSMAN CONSENTED TO ALSO TRY TO IDENTIFY ZONES WHERE DRUG CROPS WERE BEING GROWN IN THAILAND.

LEBOUTILLIER SAID HE HOPED THE DRUG AGENCY CREDENTIALS, WHICH WOULD HAVE ESTABLISHED THAT THE BEARER HAD AN AFFILIATION WITH THE DEA BUT NOT AS AN AGENT, WOULD BE USED BY THE ORDER OFFICIALS TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION TO ENTER THE THAI-BASED STAFF OF HIS SKYHOOK II ORGANIZATION CONSISTS OF ABOUT 100 MEMBERS WHO TRY TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT AMERICAN POWS.

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WASHINGTON, IN A LETTER TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE, WHICH RECENTLY INVESTIGATED NSC PROCEDURES IN SELLING ARMS TO IRAN AND THE NICARAGUAN REBELS.

THE TOWER COMMISSION AND THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE HAVE CRITICIZED THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL FOR RELYING ON A PRIVATE NETWORK TO COLLECT INTELLIGENCE ABOUT IRAN IN 1985 AND 1986. THE PANELS SAID THE OPERATION WAS AMATEURISH AND LED TO POSSIBLE ABUSES OF POLICY AND LAW.

CHILDRESS, ~~REDACTED~~ COLONEL, IN CHARGE OF ASIAN AFFAIRS AT THE NSC, SAID HE WAS AWARE OF THE DRAWBACKS OF USING THE PRIVATE GROUP BUT ~~REDACTED~~ U.S. INTELLIGENCE AGENTS AND A ~~REDACTED~~ COUNCILOR FROM ACTING OVERSTRESS.

HE SAID IT IS STILL POSSIBLE THAT THE GROUP HAS PROPOSALS FOR INTELLIGENCE GATHERING ABOUT

1 A PENTAGON TASK FORCE CONCLUDED IN OCTOBER THAT THERE IS "A STRONG
2 POSSIBILITY" THAT AMERICANS ARE BEING HELD CAPTIVE IN VIETNAM OR LAOS.
3 THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE TASK FORCE, HEADED BY RETIRED LT. GEN. EUGENE
4 TIGHE

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S OFFICIAL POSITION IS THAT, WHILE THERE IS NO PROOF THAT AMERICAN POWS ARE ALIVE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, THE POSSIBILITY CANNOT BE IGNORED. IT SAYS THAT LIVE-SIGHTING REPORTS "RECEIVE AND WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE NECESSARY PRIORITY AND RESOURCES BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT AT LEAST SOME AMERICANS ARE STILL BEING HELD CAPTIVE."

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POW POLICY CENTER

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August 25, 1987

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HON. BILL HENDON

BRUCE RICHARDS, ESQ.

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MARIAN SMELTON
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CONGRESSMAN CHRIS SMITH
NEW JERSEY

CONGRESSMAN DENNY SMITH
OREGON

BETH STEWART, ESQ.
MIA DAUGHTER

CONGRESSMAN DON SUNDQUIST
TENNESSEE

Dear POW Chairman:

I appreciated the opportunity to attend the recent VVA National Convention in Washington, D.C. I was especially grateful for the occasion to be able to speak during the POW briefing about my father, Air Force Colonel Peter J. Stewart, who is missing in action in Vietnam. Dad was lost over Dien Bien Phu in 1966 and, though we have a picture of him in captivity, he did not return with the other POWs during Operation Homecoming in 1973.

Today, I have no way of knowing whether my father is still alive. But, as the enclosed New York Times article shows, government sources estimate that at least 100 U.S. POWs do still remain in communist prisons in Southeast Asia.

In an effort to get these men home, this past spring eight members of Congress, a former congressman and a former POW pledged a \$1 million reward to any Asian who would defect or escape and bring one of our POWs to freedom. Last month, thirteen additional congressmen and the Charlotte Motor Speedway added their support, raising the reward total to \$2.4 million! In the words of one of the congressmen, "We pay rewards to communist pilots to fly MIGs out of China, and now we are offering a similar reward to any communist who will bring one of our POWs out of Southeast Asia."

Without a doubt, this reward is the most exciting development since 1973 for those of us whose fathers, husbands, brothers and sons did not return. Finally, we see a real chance to bring these men home in an honorable way. But, for this plan to work, it is imperative that word of the reward reach the people who guard or control our POWs. That is why I am writing today to ask for your help.

On September 18, National POW/MIA Recognition Day, I plan to accompany five other POW sons and daughters to Thailand to help the POW Policy Center publicize the reward offer. On that day we plan to stand on the west bank of the Mekong River and release thousands of helium filled balloons - each with news of the reward attached - and send them across the river toward communist Laos. Our effort will coincide with Recognition Day ceremonies and balloon releases to be held the same day all across America. But our balloons will, of course, be somewhat different in that they will carry the exciting news that might prompt a communist guard to defect and bring an American POW with him to freedom.

Following our kickoff ceremony, we will begin purchasing radio and print ads all around Southeast Asia to send the reward notice into areas that our balloons could never reach.

This is a very exciting time for all of us. I believe our reward is the best hope ever of bringing these men home. I also believe that our balloon release on the Mekong is an essential part of both the reward program and National POW/MIA Recognition Day. I plan to be there with the other sons and daughters to kick off this effort and put word of the reward onto the streets of Communist Asia.

Can your chapter assist in this effort? We need your financial support to help us travel to Southeast Asia and advertise the reward. Your emergency contribution to the American Defense Institute's POW Policy Center will put us in the air and on the air on September 18! We sons and daughters, our Congressional Advisory Board - and most of all, I'm sure, the POWs - will all be grateful for any support you can give.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Stewart
Daughter of Col. Peter J. Stawert, USAF
Missing in Vietnam since Homecoming 1973
Member, Board of Advisors
POW Policy Center

P. S. I hope you will read and post the enclosed newspaper clippings about the plight of our POWs and what we here at ADI are doing to help bring them home.

The New York Times

THE NEW YORK TIMES TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1971

P.O.W.'s Alive in Vietnam, Report Concludes

By RICHARD L. BERKE

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20 — A Pentagon panel, after a five-month review of intelligence files, has concluded that American prisoners of war are still alive in Southeast Asia.

The head of the group, Lieut. Gen. Eugene F. Tighe, Jr., a former director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, said in an interview today that "a large volume of evidence points to the likelihood that Americans are being held by the Vietnamese Government.

He said he doubted that the evidence was strong enough to give the United States added leverage to win the re-

lease of any prisoners. He suggested Vietnam might accept war reparations in return for the Americans.

The group's report, to be released at a briefing Tuesday at the Pentagon, found that there was no cover-up of evidence that there are still prisoners, according to General Tighe.

Last March, the current director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Lieut. Gen. Leonard H. Perreault, told a House subcommittee on Asian and Pacific affairs that he had appointed General Tighe, at the request of Congress, "to come in for as long as necessary to get updated on follow-up actions" by the Government on missing servicemen.

General Tighe said his task force

could not say how many missing Americans were alive. Government officials have estimated that the number could be at least 100.

General Tighe said the best evidence came from many reports by refugees who said they had seen Americans.

"There were as many differences as you could imagine," he said of the refugee reports. "They ran the gamut from first-hand sightings to hearsay. But when you have that large volume of evidence that points in those directions, why that's what you conclude."

The review panel included Lyman Kirkpatrick, former inspector general of the Central Intelligence Agency; Gen. Russell Dougherty of the Air

Force, who is a former head of the Strategic Air Command; Gen. Bob Klingston of the Army, who is a former commander of the United States Central Command; Brig. Gen. Robbie Risner of the Air Force, who was a prisoner of war in Vietnam, and Lieut. Gen. John Peter Flynn of the Air Force, who was a leader of prisoners of war.

The actual search of intelligence files was conducted by Maj. Gen. John S. Murray of the Army, former chief of United States military interests in Vietnam; Col. Lester E. McGee Jr. of the Army, former intelligence specialist; John Francis McCreary of the national strategic warning staff, and Roberta Carper Maynard, a management specialist of the Defense Intelligence Agency.

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Los Angeles Times

4 Part I / Thursday, July 16, 1987

Lawmakers Pledge Cash to POW Reward

By CECILIE DITLEV-SIMONSEN, Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—Twenty-one Republican members of Congress have pledged to contribute \$100,000 each toward a \$2.4-million reward for any citizen of Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia who defects and brings along any American prisoner of war to the United States, organizers of the effort said Wednesday at a press conference near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

"Once one POW has come out of Southeast Asia, then he could provide information about what happened to him and to others," Rep. David Dreier (R-La Verne) said in an interview.

In April, Dreier and seven other GOP congressmen, including Reps. Robert K. Dornan of Garden Grove and Duncan L. Hunter of Coronado, pledged to provide \$100,000 each once a prisoner of war is released. Since then, 13 additional Republican members of Congress have joined the effort.

Pentagon Opposes Plan

The others contributing \$100,000 are former Rep. Billy Henderson (R-N.C.), Navy Capt. Eugene (Red) McDaniel and a private North Carolina company. Henderson and McDaniel are heads of the POW Policy Center, which is organizing the effort as an arm of the American Defense Institute, a conservative think tank based in Washington.

Such reward efforts have been attempted in the past but have not resulted in the release of any POWs. The Pentagon opposes such projects, contending that official efforts to gain information about POWs might be hampered if sources withheld knowledge of prisoners in hope of monetary compensation.

But Henderson argued that current economic conditions in Southeast Asia "are so bad that the reward

will be a temptation for any Vietnamese and his family." In addition, he said, "the previous rewards have not been publicized in Southeast Asia the way we plan to do it."

The reward would be paid in gold or cash within seven days of the delivery of an American prisoner, Henderson said, so long as he is on the official list of "U.S. Personnel Unaccounted for in Southeast Asia," which includes 2,413 names.

Moreover, a coalition of conservative groups, spearheaded by the National Conservative Political Action Committee, has been formed to raise \$500,000 for Vietnamese-language advertisements of the reward in publications and on radio stations throughout Southeast Asia.

Sightings Reported

There have been periodic reports in the last 10 years of sightings in Vietnam of Americans who might be listed as missing from the war. Although the Defense Department has not been able to verify those individual sightings, a 1986 report by a Pentagon panel found evidence that American prisoners of war are indeed alive in Southeast Asia.

"I myself spent six years as a prisoner of the Vietnamese communists," McDaniel said. "For 10 years after my release, I believed that we all had returned home. . . . Today, I am absolutely convinced that we have a large number of Americans in captivity in Southeast Asia."

Under the reward plan, each contributor will individually choose how to raise the \$100,000. Several of the congressmen said they plan to seek donations from individuals and organizations in their constituencies.

A spokesman for Dornan said the

congressman hopes to receive donations from people in his constituency, the 38th District, as well as from private organizations around the country.

"It'll be no problem," said Brian Bennett, spokesman for Dornan. "Since we're not talking about campaign contributions, people may give as much as they wish. There are a lot of people out there who want to help get the POWs home. They'll help out in a heartbeat."

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POW Policy Center

Hon. Bill Hendon

P.O. Box 24
Washington, D.C. 20013-24
202/544-47

July 23, 1987

\$1,000,000 in GOLD offered

for American POW.

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Dear Friend,

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I have exciting news to share with you! News which has captured the headlines in recent weeks, and will soon be the focus of national attention.

Not only do I want to share this news with you, but I want you to become a part of this history-making development. We are convinced that we will soon be able to free the Americans still held captive in Communist Southeast Asia!

Let me explain why this new development is making news, and will be the only news when our first POW is returned. You see, the individual bringing him out will receive \$1,000,000 in gold that we've offered for his or her courageous effort.

Last fall, shortly before the Iran Contra scandal broke, our government came to the conclusion that Americans were still being held captive in Southeast Asia. (I've enclosed a New York Times article giving the details of that report.)

Many of us have believed that for some time, but now the U.S. government is saying there is just too much evidence to deny their existence. They are there!

Well, I often asked myself, why haven't we been able to just go in and get them?

The truth is, several well-meaning individuals and groups have attempted such rescues and all have failed. Even a massive military effort--the Sontay Raid during the Vietnam War--ended in failure.

But why?

Why can't we locate our POW's. . . then or now?

In the end, it's relatively simple. It's because they're moved often from one location to another. By the time reliable information is received and acted upon, the Communists

"How long can they wait?"

have long since moved our men.

But, there are people who always know where they are. Their guards know. Other Communist officials know. Some local farmers know. And others, as well.

It is these people who can best get our men out. But they won't do it unless they have an enormous inducement to do so.

And that's where the idea of a reward--in gold bullion--arose. It's not a new idea. We offer rewards in many situations. But it's never been applied in such a large way to our POW's! Imagine, \$1,000,000 in gold for a POW!

The idea of gold rewards in the Orient has proven effective in other situations. Communist Chinese pilots have flown their jets to Nationalist China on Formosa to collect large gold sums (less than one million though) for defecting.

Gold is the international currency, and is readily understood and sought after in Southeast Asia.

This gold reward will work!

But it will only work if the guards, the government workers, the farmers, and others learn about it.

That is where you can help.

We need contributions of every size in order to publicize the reward in areas where it will make a difference--in the jungles of Southeast Asia.

But before I explain how we plan to do that, let me tell you how this reward has been able to become a reality in such a short period of time.

As a U.S. Congressman, I made eight trips to Southeast Asia in order to help secure the release of American POW's held there. On every trip, the Vietnamese denied their existence. Every trip, that is, until the last one.

On that trip, for the first time ever, the Vietnamese admitted the possibility of Americans still being held alive. Their Deputy Foreign Minister, Hoang Son, told me "there could be Americans living in mountains and caves"!

That immediately brought to mind the French POW's who were left behind when the French forces withdrew after their conflict with the Vietnamese. The Vietnamese denied the existence of POW's for a long time, but eventually over a thousand were returned to France.

The same situation exists today. This time the POW's are Americans. There are certain things the Vietnamese still want from the U.S. as a result of the Vietnam War, and they will hold our men until they get their way.

Until now, we have had no way of getting them out. That is, not until this million dollar reward was offered.

* The reward became reality several months ago when eight Congressmen, Red McDaniel, and I pledged \$100,000 each. The news of the reward received broad coverage, even appearing in the Bangkok newspapers.

But it takes more than pledges which will be paid when the first POW is returned. It takes money today to publicize the reward. To let people of Southeast Asia know it exists.

Once the reward becomes common knowledge in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, it will unlock the dungeons of despair which have held our men for so long. Then, and only then, will it work. \$1,000,000 in gold--we must get this message out!

I can clearly picture some impoverished prison guard in tattered fatigues, enticed by the offer of a huge reward, escaping with his family and with one of our men. Can't you just picture that, too?

Or maybe a million dollars will prompt some Vietnamese peasant to go look in those "mountains and caves" for the POW's Mr. Son acknowledged are there. Why, for a million dollars, maybe even Mr. Son himself, or some other government official, might even feel inspired to help!

Think about it--it makes sense! Surely this is THE WAY to give our men a fighting chance for FREEDOM!

So we've offered 1 million dollars in gold, not to the evil governments which imprison our men--but to a bold or even battered individual who's actually going to flee to safety with some brave POW hostage.

Friends and former colleagues in Washington tell me, "Billy, finally here's something we can do to help get our men to freedom--something honorable, and something that WILL WORK!" It will work, that is, with your financial help.

We're ready to buy time on Vietnamese language radio stations in the Philippines and elsewhere in Southeast Asia to broadcast news of the reward. We'll be placing full-page ads in every Vietnamese language paper and magazine we can get our hands on.

We plan to purchase 10,000 copies--in the Vietnamese language--of hit movies like Rocky, Indiana Jones, and Kung Fu, and intersperse our reward offer into the videotapes. This will allow us to reach the wealthy, the elite, and the powerful in Vietnam and Laos. We're

even working to beam our message into the heart of Communist Southeast Asia via satellite T.V.!

Whether rich or poor, peasant or Politburo member, oppressed or oppressor--anyone who might defect or escape with an American POW must hear about this reward! We're going to leave no stone unturned in spreading the news of this reward throughout Southeast Asia.

* But all of this takes money. Nearly \$500,000 in fact, to produce and place the ads, and to travel to administer the program. It is truly a massive undertaking. But it has to be done RIGHT if it is going to work.

Our Advisory Board of Congressmen and POW/MIA family members is as convinced as I am that this is THE plan which will finally get our men home!

We have pledges for the \$1,000,000 reward, but it won't do any good if we can't get the message out. This is where you can really help! Every dollar you send today to get the word out will bring freedom that much closer for our men.

Will you use the enclosed envelope today to rush your most generous tax-deductible contribution? Please make it payable to American Defense Institute--POW. A gift of \$500 or even \$1,000 would obviously be of enormous value, but every dollar you contribute is important. No matter what you are able to give, \$25, \$50, or \$75, is urgently needed.

With your help, some Vietnamese or Laotian guard will hear about all that gold, and will bring one of our men out--it's that simple. After all, if a reward will work to bring Communist pilots and their jets out of China, it will also work to bring our soldiers back from the dungeons of Southeast Asia.

Won't you take a step today that can make a difference, and start our POW's back on the road to FREEDOM? This is truly a matter of life and death for them, and their fate is truly in our hands. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Bill Hendon

Bill Hendon

Former U.S. Congressman

P.S. The POW Policy Center will not accept contributions from the families or the relatives of our POW's. So please, if you are related to one of our missing men, just consider this an update on what we are doing.

* P.P.S. If you would like to read a blood-chilling account of what earned one of our returned POW heroes the Navy Cross, the Navy's highest award for bravery, take this opportunity to receive Captain "Red" McDaniel's Scars and Stripes. We will send it to you right away for any gift of \$25 or more. Thank you very much.

Group offers \$1 million for return of American POW



Charlotte, NC ... April 27, 1987—Eight members of Congress, a returned POW and a former Congressman are offering \$1 million reward to any Southeast Asia defector who frees an American POW. The reward was made at the Charlotte Motor Speedway where five of the eight lawmakers held a news conference. From left to right, Duncan Hunter, R-CA; Robert Dornan, R-CA; former Congressman Bill Hendon, R-NC; David Dreier, R-CA; former POW Red McDaniel; John Roland, R-CT; NVVC President Tom Burch; POW wives Marian Shelton and Ann Hart; and Robert Smith, R-NH.

By Ron Martz
Staff Writer

Eight Republican congressmen, a former congressman and a former prisoner of war, frustrated by what they say are years of unsuccessful efforts by the U.S. government to obtain the release of POWs rumored held in Southeast Asia, have offered a \$1 million reward for the return of an American prisoner from the region.

Each says he will contribute \$100,000 to the reward fund, and Charlotte Motor Speedway in North Carolina has offered a similar amount, bringing the reward to \$1.1 million. It is being offered to the first person to deliver a live American POW to any U.S. government facility in Southeast Asia.

"We've all long since moved from the question of 'Are they there?' to 'How do we get them out?'" said former Rep. Billy Hendon of Asheville, N.C., the group's spokesman.

Hendon, a congressional fellow at the American Defense Institute's POW Policy Center in Washington, said the cash reward is not intended to encourage "Rambo"-type rescue missions. Instead, it would be paid only to Vietnamese, Laotians or Cambodians who escape or defect and bring a POW with them.

"The purpose is solely to motivate someone to defect and bring home the POWs I believe are there," said Rep. Robert Smith (R-N.H.). "This is to get the message into Southeast Asia that Americans want POWs home."

The Pentagon lists 2,417 men still unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, and Hendon long has maintained that the government has proof that some are still alive.

"We point no fingers at anyone," said Hendon. "We say that we know they're there, but despite the collective best efforts of four administrations they're still not home. This is designed to get them home."

Retired Navy Capt. Eugene "Red" McDaniel, a former POW in North Vietnam, also is contributing \$100,000 because of what he says is his strong belief that not all American prisoners were released in 1973 after the signing of the Paris Peace Accords.

"We believe it is time for some dramatic action on their behalf," said McDaniel, who also is on the board of directors of the National League of Families of Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, a group seeking resolution of the POW/MIA issue.

The National League of Families said Tuesday that it neither supports nor opposes the reward offer. "Such offers have been made in the past but have produced no results," said spokeswoman Colleen Shine.

A \$1 million reward by a Florida-based POW group about two years ago failed to produce a prisoner.

Hendon and McDaniel said they believe that once the first prisoner is released, more will follow.

POW/MIA activists believe at least 200 American prisoners may be in Southeast Asia, though Pentagon officials say they have no conclusive proof that men are being held. But Smith said he has seen information at the Pentagon that convinces him otherwise.

In addition to Smith, the congressmen offering the reward are Robert Dornan, David Dreier and Duncan Hunter of California; James Hansen of Utah; John Rowland of Connecticut; Denny Smith of Oregon; and Don Sundquist of Tennessee.

Hendon said leaflets containing information about the reward will be distributed and radio and TV messages in Vietnamese will be broadcast throughout Southeast Asia.

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HOW LONG CAN THEY WAIT?



Col. John Leighton Robertson, U.S.A.F.
M.I.A. September 16, 1966



Lt. Commander Larry J. Stevens, U.S.N.
M.I.A. February 14, 1969



"For six difficult years I was a prisoner of war of the North Vietnamese. I know firsthand the pain and anguish of being a POW in Communist captivity.

After my release in 1973, I fully believed that all our men had returned home. I believed that, in fact, for 12 years.

However, after seeing this government report and other related documents, I now hold another opinion. There are American POWs in Southeast Asia. I am convinced there are still a large number of Americans held against their will there.

It is hard for even me to imagine what 15, 18, or 20 years of captivity under the worst conditions might be like. Please join Bill Hendon and me in our efforts to bring these brave men home.

Thank you."

Captain Eugene "Red" McDaniel

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Tuesday, September 30, 1986

The New York Times

P.O.W.'s Alive in Vietnam, Report Concludes

By RICHARD L. BERKE

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29 — A Pentagon panel, after a five-month review of intelligence files, has concluded that American prisoners of war are still alive in Southeast Asia.

The head of the group, Lieut. Gen. Eugene F. Tighe, Jr., a former director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, said in an interview today that "a large volume of evidence points" to the likelihood that Americans are being held by the Vietnamese Government.

He said he doubted that the evidence was strong enough to give the United States added leverage to win the release of any prisoners. He suggested Vietnam might accept war reparations in return for the Americans.

The group's report, to be released at a briefing Tuesday at the Pentagon, found that there was no cover-up of evidence that there are still prisoners, according to General Tighe.

Last March, the current director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Lieut. Gen. Leonard H. Perroots, told a House subcommittee on Asian and Pacific affairs that he had appointed General Tighe, at the request of Congress, "to come in for as long as necessary to get updated on follow-up actions" by the Government on missing servicemen.

General Tighe said his task force

could not say how many missing Americans were alive. Government officials have estimated that the number could be at least 100.

General Tighe said the best evidence came from many reports by refugees who said they had seen Americans.

"There were as many differences as you could imagine," he said of the refugee reports. "They ran the gamut from first-hand sightings to hearsay. But when you have that large volume of evidence that points in those directions, why that's what you conclude."

The review panel included Lyman Kirkpatrick, former inspector general of the Central Intelligence Agency; Gen. Russell Dougherty of the Air Force, who is a former head of the

Strategic Air Command; Gen. Bob Klingston of the Army, who is a former commander of the United States Central Command; Brig. Gen. Robbie Rianer of the Air Force, who was a prisoner of war in Vietnam, and Lieut. Gen. John Peter Flynn of the Air Force, who was a leader of prisoners of war.

The actual search of intelligence files was conducted by Maj. Gen. John S. Murray of the Army, former chief of United States military interests in Vietnam; Col. Lester E. McGee Jr. of the Army, former intelligence specialist; John Francis McCreary of the national strategic warning staff, and Roberta Carper Maynard, a management specialist of the Defense Intelligence Agency.

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Col. Robert Laurin Standervick, Sr., U.S.A.F., as he looked before his fateful flight in 1971, left, and an artist's conception of how he would look today.

Standervick was captured in Laos, February 3, 1971, but has never returned.





NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

1606 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 223-6848

LEAGUE POLICY RESOLUTION

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- WHEREAS, the declaration of a \$2.4 million reward, coupled with attempts to release balloons on the Thai border, following recent negotiations in Hanoi and Vientiane has once again elicited strong denials by Vietnam and Laos that any American prisoners are held, has threatened the agreements reached and embarrassed Thailand, an American ally and friend; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED, that the National League of Families condemns the actions of former Representative Billy Hendon of the POW Policy Center and six POW/MIA family members, sponsored by former POW and Navy Captain Eugene "Red" McDaniel's American Defense Institute, to release balloons from Thai territory to advertise a reward for American POWs and calls upon them to immediately cease such counterproductive, theatrical stunts; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that the National League of Families extends its appreciation to the Thai Government for the long-standing, invaluable support it has given to this humanitarian issue by cooperating responsibly with the U.S. Government to obtain the accounting for our missing loved ones; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that the National League of Families supports priority government government efforts to achieve the return of any and all American prisoners, the fullest possible accounting for those still missing and the repatriation of remains of those who died serving our nation; and be it finally
- RESOLVED, that the National League of Families calls upon the governments in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia to respond on a humanitarian basis to U.S. Government efforts to obtain the fullest possible accounting for Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for in their respective countries, to end the suffering and uncertainty of the POW/MIA families and, in so doing, put behind them this issue of humanitarian concern to the American people.

Approved: September 28, 1987

EXPRESS AMERICA

EXPRESS AMERICA
DELIVERY FROM:

John LeBoutillier

Skyhook II Project

APR 29 1986

4/29

2812-2
b7c We must move fast! I recently attended unofficial negotiations in Southeast Asia with Communist army senior staff officers --

-- and their greed may have opened a new door to bring our American POWs home!

To be blunt, they've decided the Americans they're holding in brutal slavery are valuable. But only so long as they're alive, and -- since captivity is seriously undermining their health -- the Communists want to capitalize on their prisoners before it's too late!

In short, they're going to demand ransom payments!

What's more, they think they've found a way to force us to pay a large sum of money in addition to the ransom.

But that's where they've made their fatal mistake!

You see, to justify their ransom demands, the Red Army leaders want to sell us concrete evidence about the American servicemen they're holding captive in their jungles!

Fingerprints. Hair samples. Handwriting samples. Even a complete list of all the Americans still in captivity!

Once we have this hard information, they think we'll knuckle under and give them whatever ransom they demand --

-- a ransom sure to be in the millions! For each American!

But that's where their greed has seriously clouded their judgement. Because we Americans aren't about to let these treacherous Communists get away with their mercenary scheme.

And by "selling" us those fingerprints, hair samples, and handwriting samples, they're playing right into our hands.

For they'll be giving us exactly the kind of irrefutable proof our government has been insisting on before it will take action to bring our brave men home!

Hair samples, for example, can determine age and whether the person is alive or dead. Together with handwriting samples and fingerprints --

-- they can prove beyond the shadow of a doubt what we've been saying all along --

-- that American soldiers and airmen are still being held captive in Southeast Asia!

And if the Communists think the American people will tolerate their government's sitting on its hand in the face of such strong, undeniable evidence, they're wrong!

The United States Government will have no more excuses, will have no choice but to take whatever measures are necessary to bring our American servicemen home to their families!

Believe me, I thoroughly detest having to negotiate with the ruthless Communist leaders who have been brutalizing our young men all these years -- all the while denying they were there.

But, more than that, I hate knowing our brave fighting men are being treated worse than animals cooped up in stinking jungle cages!

So, I won't pass up any chance to bring them home quickly -- before the last of their strength drains away.

We are still 100% committed to this, even if it means going in and rescuing at least one of these men ourselves, without our government's help!

But if we want to take advantage of this tremendous opportunity to turn the tables on these Southeast Asian Communists, we need to act now -- before they change their minds.

They still haven't set the price for this vital information, but I want to be able to move the minute they're ready to start selling, within the next 60-90 days!

That's why I need your help right away. I estimate we'll need as much as \$175,000! And without your help, we don't have a prayer!

I've suggested contribution levels on the Express America reply form enclosed.

I know they're high, but I hope you'll find it in your heart to seriously consider sending a donation even greater than the largest amount I've suggested.

Because if this works, it means finally bringing our sons and brothers and fathers home from the South-east Asian jungles. And isn't that worth every penny?!

Sincerely,



John LeBoutillier
Chairman

P.S. Please be sure to return the "reply copy" portion of the enclosed form with your donation. Thank you.



1987

SKYHOOK II PROJECT

P.O. Box 230
Old Westbury, N.Y. 11568

The Honorable
John LeBoutillier
Chairman

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/2/92 BY 275 [redacted]

E012812-2
b7c

Dear Fellow American:

At this very moment more than 250 American servicemen are enduring brutal captivity in the jungles of Southeast Asia.

Some of them have been imprisoned for 15 years
or more --

-- and our government hasn't made a single move
to release them!

Yet when a few American civilians are held hostage in the Middle East for a few short weeks, there's a mad scramble to get them out immediately --

-- by negotiating a secret sale of arms to Iran
and diverting funds to the Nicaraguan Contras
in defiance of the U.S. Congress!

Please don't misunderstand me.

It makes me very angry whenever I hear that even one American is being detained against his will by anyone, anywhere.

What upsets me about this particular hostage situation is that the officials who were willing to accept such tremendous risks on behalf of a handful of people are the very same officials who refuse to do anything at all to rescue our POWs!

And, as you know, the civilians chose to ignore the warnings of imminent danger, whereas our servicemen had no choice about going to Southeast Asia in the first place --

-- and continue to have no choice about remaining in that Godforsaken hellhole.

So I can't help wondering what kinds of distinctions our

(over, please)

government is making.

Are the lives of civilians worth more than the lives of our men in uniform?

Are we working against a deadline of some kind? Is it possible that the longer our POWs are held captive, the more their chances of rescue diminish?

If there is a deadline, what is it? A year? 5 years? 10 years?

Whatever it is, our enslaved military men must have reached it!

Why else would our government show such a complete lack of concern for them --

-- more than a decade after the end of the Vietnam War?!

Why else would our government continue to insist that it can take no direct action without "concrete" evidence --

-- despite numerous reliable reports, including one by a special Pentagon commission, verifying that Americans are still being held captive in Southeast Asia under incredibly cruel conditions?!

Well, maybe the officials in Washington can turn a blind eye to their torture, starvation, long hours of forced labor and confinement in filthy cages so small that a grown man can't stand upright...

...maybe they can ignore the malnutrition and disease that has already claimed the lives of

I can't! That's why I founded Skyhook II Project.

We owe it to these brave young soldiers, we owe it to their families, we owe it to ourselves as a nation to stop pussyfooting around and get them out of there!

Because the Vietnam War won't really be over until all our POWs are reunited with their loved ones!

So if our government refuses to rescue them, we will!

What's more, we're confident our strategy will work!

For one thing, Skyhook II has the advantage of being able to avoid the niceties of "protocol" that tend to complicate official negotiations.

For another, I refuse to give up until we succeed -- no matter what it takes!

I'm writing to you today in the hope that you share my determination to liberate the courageous men who have sacrificed so much for their country...

...that you are as outraged as I am by the fact that the very government that sent these loyal Americans to fight in Southeast Asia is now content to let them suffer and die there!

We must not allow that to happen!

Of course, we'll keep pressuring our government to live up to its obligations. But we're not going to wait for them to act.

Thanks to the generosity of concerned Americans like you, we've already got a top-notch team of field operatives working in Southeast Asia.

But it takes a lot of money to finance these field missions. And we need to increase our team of operatives in order to pinpoint the exact locations of the many tiny Communist prison camps that are scattered throughout the jungle.

In short, we need you --

-- to give us strength in numbers --

-- to give us the winning edge!

But before you decide whether or not to join our rescue efforts, let me ask you to consider one more important factor --

-- the desperation of the families!

Imagine the anguish of not knowing if your brother, father, husband or son is alive or dead...

...imagine living with this terrible uncertainty for more than a decade!

Their long years of suffering will end only when the last American POW is back home again.

(over, please)

Your support of our urgently-needed rescue efforts can help ensure that these long-awaited family reunions will take place soon!

Please be as generous as you can.

With sincere gratitude,



John LeBoutillier
Chairman

P.S. Remember, some of our captive Americans are in failing health. We must move quickly if we want to bring them home alive. Please let me hear from you right away!

Thank you for caring.

NLF

A PROGRAM OF POW/MIA, INC.

A copy of the latest financial report filed with the Department of State may be obtained by writing to: New York State, Department of State, Office of Charities Registration, 162 Washington Ave., Albany, New York 12231 or Skyhook # Project.

YOUR STAMP
ADDS
TO YOUR
GIFT
Thank You

SKYHOOK II
P.O. Box 17419
Washington, DC 20041

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DATE 10/2/92 BY 8/

E012812-2
67C



SKYHOOK II PROJECT
P.O. Box 230
Old Westbury, N.Y. 11568

☐ **YES**. Congressman LeBoutillier, we must rescue the American
POWs still suffering unspeakable torment in Southeast Asia.

To help bring these courageous servicemen home, I have enclosed
my contribution in the amount of:

☒ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$10 ☐ \$100
☐ \$500 ☐ Other \$ _____

Please make check payable to:
Skyhook II Project

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Thank you!

"Committed to bringing our American servicemen home."

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE



SKYHOOK II PROJECT
P.O. Box 230
Old Westbury, N.Y. 11568

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EO 12812-2
b7c

The Honorable
John LeBoutillier
Chairman

Dear Fellow Citizen,

As you can see from the note that Charlton Heston has enclosed, the truth can no longer be denied. American fighting men are still being held captive in the jungles of Southeast Asia.

Reliable estimates now show that as many as 253 American prisoners of war yet remain to be rescued...an amazing number to survive when you consider what we've learned about their savage treatment by the North Vietnamese.

Recent reports by native refugees (all checked by lie-detector) tell a story of stark brutality: Starved and clad only in filthy rags, American soldiers and airmen are kept chained in tiny bamboo cages...made to work like animals pulling heavy plows...forced to toil from daybreak to nightfall in steaming tropic heat...kicked and beaten constantly just for their guards' amusement.

Similar tales are told by Europeans too, such as the following:

Two Swedes on business near Hanoi ran into a chain gang of men slaving on a road. They yelled, "We are American P.O.W.'s There are many of us here...many of us. Tell America not to forget us."

A West German diplomat saw another group in Laos. Asking who they were, his guide laughed and said, "They are American P.O.W.'s left over from the war."

Frankly, it's become very hard for those of us working on this project to control our rage as all these reports of sightings -- and of the brutality inflicted on helpless fellow Americans -- keep on pouring in.

In fact, I'm sure you must feel the same sense of rage rising within your heart as you read this letter.

Still, you're probably wondering why Communist Vietnam would bother to keep these prisoners alive, and then lie to us about not knowing of any Americans remaining in their country.

As you might guess, the answer is not a pleasant one. The reason these people have broken their vow to return all of the American boys in their P.O.W. camps is pure blackmail!

You see, North Vietnam plans to use the poor, forgotten U.S.

(over, please)

"Committed to bringing our American servicemen home."

soldiers and airmen they've hidden away in the jungles of Laos to squeeze billions of dollars out of our government.

In fact, they've already started.

As a U.S. Congressman, I met with a Communist Vietnamese official in Thailand when I began looking into reports of missing American P.O.W.'s.

When I asked him about these reports, he sneered and said that he couldn't be 100% certain that there weren't Americans still held in remote areas of the region -- but that his government wouldn't bother looking for them unless the U.S. paid for these "investigations."

But it doesn't matter. Our government won't soon cough up that money anyway. Two U.S. administrations have stated for the record that there are no American P.O.W.'s left in Vietnam. So you can be sure no government official is going to risk embarrassing all those high-ranking politicians by announcing the truth for quite a while.

BUT there is another way to get those American boys out of the jungle hell where they're hidden and tortured!

Right now, anti-communist rebels are very active in many areas where American prisoners have been seen. They can operate in these remote regions because local Communists either fear them -- or have been bribed to "look the other way" as the rebels slip past on their missions.

Why not have these rebels (many of whom are American-trained veterans of the war) get our boys out for us?

How? It will still take money -- but much, much less than the Communists want. Besides, it will be used for us by our friends.

Just for example, suppose we gave one of these rebel bands a few thousands dollars to set up an operation that would get two or three Americans out of one of those hidden "horror camps."

What would follow might happen something like this:

Late one evening, as prison-camp guards kick and flog a group of our boys along the trail back to their cages, the last few Communists in line might be swiftly and quietly dragged into the jungle.

Then, a few seconds later, the bedraggled American P.O.W.'s they were guarding might also vanish suddenly from the rear of the plodding group. The Americans, of course, would now be in friendly hands. (We won't talk about the guards' fate.)

In a matter of just a day or two, the rescued Americans would,

be smuggled across the border to our SKYHOOK II PROJECT group in Thailand.

Now let's suppose that episodes much like the one outlined above were to happen throughout the areas of Vietnam and Laos where American prisoners have been seen.

In just a few weeks -- for a relatively few thousands of dollars -- six, ten, perhaps a dozen of these abused and forgotten American service men could be brought back to America and allowed to tell their story to the world!

Imagine the headlines: "AMERICAN POW'S FOUND ALIVE IN VIETNAM!"

Imagine the outrage that would sweep the U.S. as these gaunt survivors appeared on TV coast to coast, telling the entire nation not only about their own sufferings...but about all their comrades still held captive in the torrid Asian jungles.

With their appearance, those government officials who once declared them dead would have to admit their grim mistake.

As a result, millions of furious Americans would demand an end to all the current talk between the U.S. and the "poor" North Vietnamese about helping them rebuild what they once forced us to destroy.

Suddenly, their leaders would be seen not as the brave, simple peasants they are painted to be, but as the brutal Soviet-supported liars they actually are...secretly holding American prisoners in slavery for use as future bargaining-chips.

The truth would be out for the world to see...and all the financial aid North Vietnam now gets from non-Communist nations would immediately be in danger of a cut-off!

For world opinion is a powerful force. Not only would the U.S. refuse to have any further dealings with North Vietnam until all of our boys are returned to us, but every decent-minded country on earth would surely follow the same course.

But none of this can happen until we can bring out that first handful of long-enslaved Americans as proof.

And as I've said, that's going to take lots of expert planning and many thousands of dollars. Some of that money may be needed to equip anti-communist rebels in the area. Some of it may even have to be used to pay off border officials.

In any event, one thing's certain: our group can provide the expert planning -- but we need you to help provide the money!

Frankly, this letter isn't going to huge numbers of people. (As a non-profit group, our SKYHOOK II PROJECT simply can't afford mass mailings to everyone in the United States.)

(over, please)

So the people I've picked to receive Charlton Heston's note and my letter are Americans who I have reason to believe will support us -- the kind of Americans who would never stand idly by and let U.S. soldiers and airmen continue to rot in stinking jungle cages far from home.

I'm talking about Americans like you!

Help me get those first few bedraggled P.O.W.'s out of the filthy hell in which they're hidden so we can squeeze their captors into returning all our soldiers and airmen to us.

It won't take much. If each of you who are getting this letter would send just \$10, \$15 or even \$20, it would quickly add up to the thousands we need to launch our mission.

So how about it? Don't you want to help blast this tale of communist treachery and lies wide open for all the world to see?

Don't you want to play a part in our mission to rescue those American P.O.W.'s from the starvation and brutality they now face each and every day?

Of course you do. In fact, I know you do. (That's why you were the one chosen to get this particular letter in the first place.)

But please, you **MUST** hurry! With each day that passes, those once-proud American fighting men grow weaker and lose even more hope of ever escaping the vicious brutality they suffer.

So all of us will be anxiously awaiting your reply within the coming week. I pray you won't fail us.

Urgently,


John LeBoutillier

P.S. In August of last year, The New York Times provided a large block of space for me to tell about American P.O.W.'s who are secretly kept hidden by the North Vietnamese. Even with this major exposure, and the active support of Charlton Heston, officials in Washington have yet to announce any ~~move~~ move towards rescuing those helpless U.S. soldiers and airmen.

Clearly, it's up to us to save the American boys still held by the Communist Vietnamese before they give up and die.

A PROGRAM OF POW MIAs, INC.

A copy of the latest financial report filed with the Department of State may be obtained by writing to: New York State, Department of State, Office of Charities Registration, 162 Washington Ave., Albany, New York 12231 or Skyhook II Project.

0

An urgent message for you
from Charlton Heston!



Dear Friend:

Years ago, when the Vietnamese War ended, the North Vietnamese refused to release all the Americans they were holding prisoner as they were required to do.

Many of our men were held behind, and they're still held there to this day. Locked in bamboo cages in the jungle, in caves in the mountains, some of our men are used as slaves, forced to drag plows in rice paddies.

Well, I can't forget them. I hope you can't either. In fact, America can't forget these men. We have to bring them home, all of them.

I'm asking you to do something you've never been asked to do before. That's contribute some money to help save these men.

They're ours and they're heroes, real heroes. Because of people like you who care enough to give, we can finally locate and bring these men home.

I thank you.

Sincerely,

Charlton Heston

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JACK ANDERSON and DALE VAN ATTA

POWs Still Held in Southeast Asia

At the urging of anguished relatives, we've spent years investigating whether American prisoners are still alive in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. We're now prepared to announce our conclusion:

We are convinced that some Americans on the missing-in-action list have actually been held in bondage by their communist captors for more than a decade.

The latest top-secret reports identify one group of about two dozen who are believed to be doing "technical work" for the Vietnamese—repairing helicopters and other military hardware left behind by U.S. forces.

"Actually, there are more likely a hundred POWs still living there," said a key source in the Defense Intelligence Agency. He based this estimate on satellite photos, communications intercepts and human reports. "The evidence," he said, "is overwhelming."

This evidence may be forced into open court by a class-action lawsuit, which has been filed by a former prisoner-of-war and a Special Forces sergeant. They charge that federal officials have violated U.S. law by not aggressively seeking the release or rescue of live POWs still being held in Southeast Asia.

A tale of intrigue and betrayal rivaling the movie "Rambo" could unfold in a federal court in Fayetteville, N.C., the "company town" of the Green Berets.

Affidavits filed in the suit claim U.S. officials deliberately ignored or discredited reports of live POW sightings. One affidavit, by a Medal of Honor

winner, even suggests that the Army tried to arrange the death or capture of the two plaintiffs in the suit.

A much-decorated former POW, retired Maj. Mark A. Smith, swears that while he was serving with the Special Forces in Korea he got information for the DIA from 1981 to 1984 proving that there were POWs in Southeast Asia. The information was gathered "by talking with agents in the Thai military, the Lao resistance, the Pathet Lao, the free Vietnamese, gun smugglers, gold smugglers, drug smugglers and anyone who could provide information."

Smith said he cross-checked reports of about 50 agents, most of whom had no knowledge of each other but who corroborated the others' testimony.

Sgt. Melvin C. McIntire, still on active duty, served in Korea with Smith and also made trips to Southeast Asia to gather information on POWs. "I learned of approximately 200 living Americans in Laos who were prisoners-of-war," McIntire's affidavit said. When he, too, reported on the POWs who could have been brought out in May 1984, he "was sent back to the United States six months early." He was later told that his and Smith's intelligence reports had been destroyed.

The Medal of Honor winner, Lt. Col. Robert Lewis Howard, now with the Special Forces in Germany, swore that he was told of live POW sightings in January 1984, in Thailand, when he "participated in a training exercise which I now believe was designed and intended to discredit the intelligence-gathering activity" of the Korea-based Special Forces unit.

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Support the SKYHOOK II PROJECT and you'll be joining
a proud group of truly outstanding Americans

The Honorable John LeBoutillier
Chairman and President
Former member of Congress

Members of our Advisory Board include:

Captain Eugene B. McDaniel, USN (Ret.) Former P.O.W.	Mr. Jackie Sherrill Head Football Coach, Texas A&M
Li. General Daniel O. Graham, USA (Ret.) Former Director, U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency Former Deputy Director, U.S. Central Intelligence Agency	Mr. John M. G. Brown, USA (Ret.) Combat Veteran of the Vietnam War
Mrs. Jean MacDonald (deceased) Mother of an MIA in Laos	Major General John K. Singlaub, USA (Ret.) Johnny Majors Head Football Coach, University of Tennessee
Colonel Earl Hopper, USA (Ret.) Father of an MIA in North Vietnam Past Chairman of the Board of the National League of Families	Mr. Jim Young Head Football Coach, West Point
Mr. Billy Martin Manager, New York Yankees	Rocky Graziano Former Middle Weight Boxing Champion of the World
Mr. Herb Brooks Coach, 1980 U.S. Gold Medal Olympic Hockey Team	Mr. Willie Mays Hall of Fame baseball player
Colonel Terry Uyeyama, USAF (Ret.) Former P.O.W.	Mr. Mike Eurizione Captain, 1980 U.S. Gold Medal Olympic Hockey Team
Mr. Floyd Patterson Former Heavy Weight Boxing Champion of the World	Mrs. Marion Shelton Wife of an MIA in Laos
Mr. Joe Zito	Mr. Michael Clark Son of an MIA in North Vietnam
	Mr. Ray Perkind

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67c
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DATE 8/2/92 BY SP3



SKYHOOK II PROJECT
P.O. Box 230
Old Westbury, N.Y. 11568

☐ YES, Congressman LeBoutillier, I will support your organization's efforts to
rescue those American P.O.W.'s still hidden in the jungles of Southeast Asia
by their Communist Vietnamese captors. Please keep me advised of your
progress in finding and saving our abandoned American servicemen.

Enclosed is my contribution of (please check one box):

☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100
☐ \$500 ☐ Other \$ _____

Please make check payable to: SKYHOOK II PROJECT

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Thank you!

"Committed to bringing our American servicemen home"

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DATE 10/3/92 BY 75

EO 12812-2

b7c

Read the gripping story about a
group of American troops who are
still at war—and have lost
all hope of ever coming home.

48733-7-88C



Special message from
CHARLTON HESTON
enclosed!

YOUR STAMP
ADDS
TO YOUR
GIFT
Thank You

SKYHOOK II
P.O. Box 5811
Rockville, MD 20855

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ACCOUNT FOR POW/MIAs, INC.

SKY HOOK II PROJECT

Post Office Box 226683 Dallas, Texas 75222-6683

The Honorable John LeBoutillier
Former member of Congress

Advisory Board

Mr. John A. Kline
Former U.S. Senator

Mr. Herb Hovak
Chairman, U.S. Civil Liberties
Committee, House of Representatives

Mr. John M. G. Brown, U.S. Army, RETI
Former National Security Council member

Lt. General Daniel O. Graham, RETI
Former Director
U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency

Mr. Ray Graziano
Former Major League Baseball
Chairman of the World

Mr. C. Z. Gurne
Columnist

Mr. Charlton Heston

Colonel Earl Hopper, U.S. Army, RETI
Past Chairman of the Board of the National
League of Families of Prisoners in SE Asia
Former POW/MIA Liaison Committee

Mrs. Joan M. Donald
Member of the U.S. House of Representatives

Mr. Billy Martin
Former Major League Baseball Player, New York Yankees

Mr. Willie Mays

Captain Eugene B. McDaniel, USN, RETI
Former Pilot
Past Chairman of the Board of the National
League of Families of Prisoners in SE Asia

Mr. Floyd Patterson
Former Heavyweight
Champion of the World

Mr. Ray Perkins
Head Football Coach, University of Alabama

Mr. Jackie Sherrill
Head Football Coach, Texas A & M

Mr. Fred Travalena
Briarcliff

Colonel Terry Uehama, USAF, RETI
Former Pilot

Miss Gloria Vanderbilt

Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney

November 29, 1984

EO12812-2
b7c

Dear [REDACTED]

I appreciate your taking my recent phone call concerning Prisoner's of War still held in Southeast Asia, as well as your consideration to help financially to bring these men home.

As I said on the phone, there are many men still held against their will as human slaves and in bamboo cages, wondering why America has forgotten them. Well, I haven't forgotten them and I'm sure you haven't forgotten them either.

The SKY HOOK II PROJECT is an effort, directed by former Congressman John LeBoutillier, which is dedicated to helping locate and bring home these men. I can't think of a cause more worthy than this. They are real heroes.

Thank you again for your consideration to stand with me and the families and friends of these "forgotten" heroes in the SKY HOOK II effort.

Sincerely,

Charlton Heston

PLEASE DETACH HERE AND RETURN IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE

Dear Charlton:

I want to be a part of the SKY HOOK II PROJECT and help bring these men back to America. Enclosed is my check for \$..... made payable to ACCOUNT FOR POW/MIAs.

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"Tell the world about us—tell America not to forget us!"

The New York Times

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NEW YORK, MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 1984

80 cents beyond 75 cents charge on L

Rotting in Laos

By John LeBoutillier

WESTBURY, L.I. — A terrible wrong was committed 11 years ago: 566 servicemen lost in Laos were abandoned without a trace. While almost 800 war prisoners held in North Vietnam came home in early 1973, not one of the 566 has ever come home — dead or alive. This tragedy continues.

Gen. Eugene Tighe, who at the time was director of the Pentagon's Defense Intelligence Agency, recently testified that he believed that our men were still held in Laos. Privately, D.I.A. analysts concede that P.O.W.'s are still alive there, differing only on how many there are. The most recent estimates range from 20 to 253.

Hundreds of recent refugee reports, verified with "lie-detector" machines, describe similar scenes: American pilots are held virtually as slaves in caves and remote villages, guarded by Vietnamese and Laotian

Swallow
pride,
help Hanoi,
rescue the
P.O.W.'s

soldiers, at times forced to repair American weapons and electronic equipment left over from the war.

How did this happen? On Jan. 27, 1973, America and North Vietnam signed the Paris Peace Accords, which provided for the return of all P.O.W.'s in Vietnam. Neighboring Laos was not a participant and no provision was made for return of P.O.W.'s there.

On Feb. 1, 1973, President Richard M. Nixon sent to Prime Minister Pham Van Dong a letter pledging \$3.25 billion in reconstruction funds if Hanoi honored the treaty — and if Congress appropriated the money. In exchange, Hanoi was to provide a complete list of all P.O.W.'s in Laos. It did not. To this day, it has provided no information on any of the 566.

Then, on Feb. 5, 1973, an American bomber was shot down in Laos with seven men on board. National Security Agency radio intercepts confirm that four were taken prisoner. Nothing has been done about them.

Meanwhile, Capitol Hill made it clear that it would not appropriate the \$3.25 billion. But Hanoi had shrewdly created an insurance policy against the possibility that the money would fall through: The P.O.W.'s in Laos were a bargaining chip.

By early March 1973, it was obvious the funds would not be voted. Henry A. Kissinger, architect of the treaty and then national security adviser, dispatched Robert C. McFarlane, now President Reagan's national security adviser, to Paris to make a new offer: America would exchange \$100 million in medicine for the P.O.W.'s in Laos. Hanoi did not deny the P.O.W.'s were there; instead, it countered: We don't want just \$100 million; we want the \$3.25 billion Nixon promised us. With Congress unwilling to appropriate this sum, and Hanoi unwilling to settle for less, the Administration was stuck.

Just when the public should have been informed of the dilemma, Watergate convulsed the nation. Vietnam and Laos took a back seat.

For 11 years, Hanoi has positioned itself to "find" the P.O.W.'s. In a private message to me in September 1981, its ambassador to Thailand said: "Cases of Americans reportedly captured but not registered with the center responsible for P.O.W.'s require time for investigation and searching. Failure to register these cases was due to many war circumstances which led to their missing on the way from the places of capture to the detention centers." In a face-saving manner, the North Vietnamese continue to give themselves an "out."

Why does the situation remain unresolved? Because Hanoi's policy is not to "find" the P.O.W.'s until Washington stops supporting Peking, opens full diplomatic relations with Hanoi and makes good on past promises. And because of the Reagan Administration's refusal to improve relations until Hanoi makes a complete accounting of all the P.O.W.'s. The P.O.W.'s must wonder: "Why has America abandoned us?"

How to break this stalemate?

One Communist official told me in 1981: "How can we ask our peasants to look for your [troops] when you have destroyed all our schools and hospitals? If America gives our people hospitals and schools, then we can ask these peasants to look for your [troops]."

The only way to bring home the P.O.W.'s is to swallow some pride in admitting that we lost the war and that Hanoi holds all the cards. We must provide, without a quid pro quo, a multibillion dollar reconstruction program involving medicine, hospitals, X-ray equipment, schools and other nonmilitary humanitarian aid.

We don't put a price on human life: the North Vietnamese do. □

John LeBoutillier, Long Island Republican, while in Congress from 1981 to 1983 served on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and Task Force on Prisoners of War in Southeast Asia.

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Statements by Former POW's

Captain Eugene 'Red' MacDaniel: "I was a POW in Hanoi for almost 6 years. I learned never to trust the North Vietnamese. I am now certain that there are many of our men still held in both Vietnam and Laos. And this project, the Sky Hook II Project, is the best way to bring these men home."

Colonel Terry Uyeyama: "Americans are still in captivity in Vietnam and Laos. They have languished in this inhumanity since the return of most of the POW's of twelve years ago. The Sky Hook II Project gives us a solid opportunity to bring our outrage to a boil and to actively work for their freedom."

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Chairman and President
The Honorable John LeBoutillier
Former Member of Congress

Former U.S. Congressman John LeBoutillier from New York served on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and on the special House Task Force on POW's and Missing-in-Action in Southeast Asia. Mr. LeBoutillier, who graduated Magna Cum Laude from Harvard College and received an MBA degree from Harvard Business School is the founder and Director of ACCOUNT FOR OUR POW/MIAs, INC. He has been to Laos four times and held extensive, secret talks with the North Vietnamese. Mr. LeBoutillier has also seen classified information regarding the Prisoner of War situation. As he says, "After carefully reviewing secret information in the Defense Intelligence Agency, there is no question in my mind that there are over 200 men held alive against their will today in Vietnam and Laos. The Sky Hook II Project is the best way to recover these men."

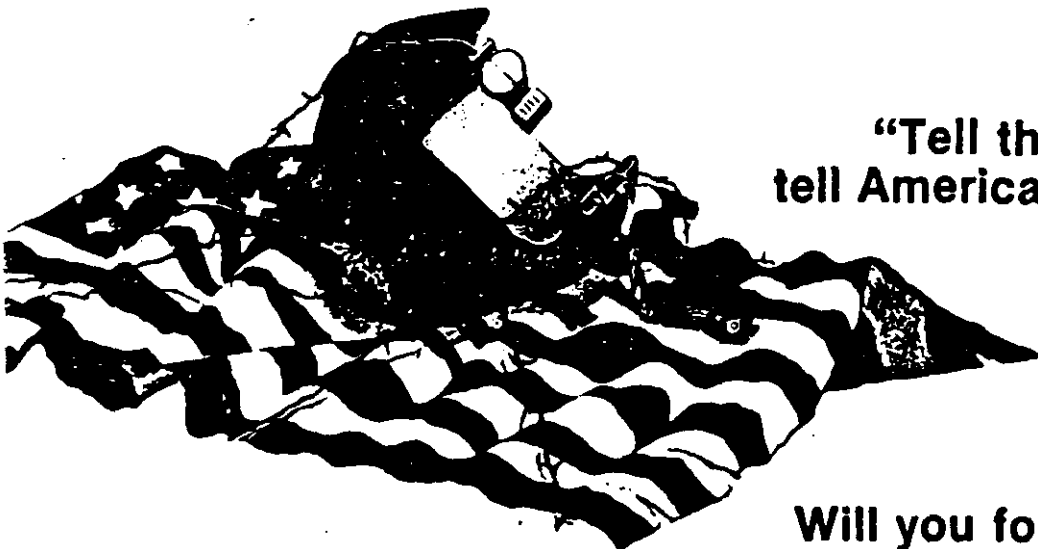
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SKY HOOK II PROJECT

Post Office Box 226683 Dallas, Texas 75222-6683

All donations are tax deductible.

Please don't forget these men. Help us bring them home.



**"Tell the world about us -
tell America not to forget us."**

Will you forget these heroes?

Why the North Vietnamese are still holding American POW's:

Following the end of the war in Vietnam, the North Vietnamese retained hundreds of American prisoners as a "bargaining chip" in order to force the U. S. Government to pay billions of dollars in cash and trade concessions.

For the last eleven years the Hanoi government has denied allegations that they are holding POW's and MIA's. However, in order for them to "search for" our missing men they have demanded these payments.

The North Vietnamese communists have always been deceptive about holding POW's. They lied to the French about hundreds of French soldiers who were captured and held for over fifteen years.

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DAILY NEWS

Bares 12 'sightings' of Yank PWs

By JOSEPH VOLZ

Washington (News Bureau)—A Pentagon official said yesterday there were about 12 "live sightings" last year in Southeast Asia of men believed to be American prisoners from the Vietnam War.

Despite tight security in Vietnam and Laos, there have been many sightings of American POW's.

Facts:

There are 2,494 men missing from the Vietnam war.

566 men were lost in Laos; to this day, not one man has ever returned, either dead or alive.

There are hundreds of first-hand live sighting reports of Americans held in captivity.



What is the Sky Hook II Project?:

The Sky Hook II Project is an effort by a group of Americans to find and recover all remaining men being held in Southeast Asia. Using former CIA, Air Force Intelligence and Defense Intelligence Agency experts, the Sky Hook II Project concentrates on working with Asians in a quiet, private way to remove Americans secretly from the caves and other prison structures where they are held.

Diplomatic efforts have not been successful to secure the release of these men. However, we must not forget them. The Sky Hook II Project will bring this entire matter to the attention of the American media and the American people.

Examples of Live-Sightings of POW's

In 1980, two Swedish workers near Hanoi accidentally ran into a chain gang of white men working on a road under armed guard. When they saw the Swedes they began yelling, "We are American POW's. There are many of us here... many of us. Tell the world about us. Tell America not to forget us".

In 1981 a West German diplomat touring northern Laos in a helicopter saw a group of white men forced to do manual labor on a road. He asked his Laotian guide who these men were. The reply was, "Those are American POW's left over from the war."

Also in 1981 three Laotians drove to Northern Laos in a truck. When they arrived at their destination, one of them looked in the truck's rear-view mirror and saw five white men in torn and tattered clothes walking on a path with their arms tied behind their backs. This Laotian asked one of the Vietnamese guards who these men were. The reply, "These are American POW's. We have 52 of them here."



Captain George MacDonald was shot down in Laos on December 21, 1972. Two years later, after all the POW's were supposedly released, his mother was shown a picture of her son in a POW camp. Lately, there has been other information to indicate that George could still be alive.

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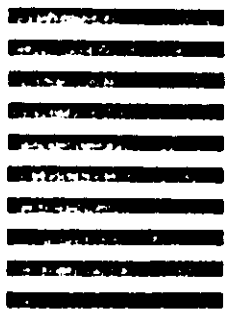
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Re Card

Yes! I want to help you get our remaining brave soldiers and flyers home.
Enclosed is my gift to help in this historic effort.

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$ _____

Please make your check payable to: American Defense Institute—POW

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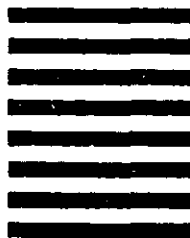
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3 October 1986

Dear [REDACTED]

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Did you see the recent "20/20" (ABC) show about American servicemen still Missing In Action from the Vietnam War?

Did you see Pat Robertson's commentary on the "70 Club" (CBN) about the alleged U.S. government knowledge of the fact that American Prisoners of War are still being held hostage in Southeast Asia?

Though you may find this hard to believe, you must because this ghastly fact is true.

When I came home in 1973 with the 591 other POW's who were released, I believed all my fellow prisoners had returned with me. Since then, I have become convinced that though they freed me, the enemy kept other men behind, perhaps to use as hostages for the \$3.25 billion Henry Kissinger promised North Vietnam which Congress refused to authorize.

And until recent media and Congressional attention was focused on this issue, the government has tried to keep these amazing facts from the American people!

Lt. General Eugene Tighe, former Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, has said that our government has had strong evidence ALL ALONG that as many as 50 or 60 U.S. servicemen are today being held against their will!

Yet, unbelievably, a senior Department of Defense official said in January that the U.S. "has had no evidence of live POW's for more than two years now".

Do you believe this, [REDACTED]

According to testimony before the United States Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, the Department of

Defense could have known all the time that men were left behind!

At recent Congressional hearings, the Army's most highly decorated soldier, who wears the Congressional Medal of Honor as well as 52 other combat medals for heroism, testified with two recently retired former members of his command as to their May, 1964 orders to abort a well-planned rescue of three POW hostages.

While stationed in Korea, this Army Lt. Colonel received information that three Americans were about to be smuggled out of Laos by two defecting Laotian guards. EN ROUTE to rescue these men, according to the testimony, they were ordered by their commanding general to abort their mission!

The CIA sent a team to Laos in 1981 to determine if intelligence reports were true as to the location of a POW camp. According to the team leader, they found the camp and, from a hiding place, took pictures and made sound recordings of American POW's.

Yet how much of this information has the U.S. government acted upon?

In mid-February, for the first time, the Vietnamese government agreed to investigate a large number of live sightings. They have now moved to the position of admitting that there could be live Americans imprisoned they are "unaware of"!

Now it is even more important than ever before that we get the American people to support action to rescue our POW hostages. Our national honor is as much at stake here as it was when Americans were being held hostage in Iran.

For several years now I have been working through the American Defense Institute to present the facts about our POW's to Congress and the American people.

ADI has acted as a clearinghouse for information--we have almost daily contact with family members and many others who are vitally concerned about those still missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

On behalf of our missing men and the American Defense Institute, I and others who share our commitment to bringing our men home, have appeared on national television shows like "Good Morning America", "The Phil Donahue Show", "20/20" and the "700 Club".

More importantly, I carried a petition to President Reagan in Geneva last November signed by 100 Members of Congress, asking him to bring up the issue of our missing American servicemen in his summit meeting with Soviet leader Gorbachev.

However, the time has come when together we MUST act, and unite in a national campaign to strongly encourage President Reagan to take the necessary measures to bring our POW hostages home.

Too many years have passed now for us to let our men languish in torture cages any longer! Our national honor hangs in the balance.

And today, the American Defense Institute and I need your help.

We have recently obtained several television films produced by the British Broadcasting Corporation which had already aired in Great Britain months before any of the U.S. media would touch this issue. The films dramatically tell of evidence of live POW's which cannot be ignored. They are the most complete examination of the situation to date.

These films must be shown on American television, and since the networks have turned down the opportunity, we must air the BBC film, as a documentary, ourselves.

We can be ready to broadcast in a few weeks. We must go on national television, for when we do, the public outcry will be so thunderous it will overcome the people who are keeping our POW's in prison, and destroying the morale of our fighting men and women today. Because young Americans need to know that when they put on America's uniform, America will not abandon them if they are ever taken prisoner.

The cost for this project will be \$300,000. That may seem like a great deal of money, but how can we put a price on our national honor?

Because the television stations require cash up front, I must turn to you for help. This will be the most important contribution you will ever make.

Our men are surely still enduring the horrible tortures I myself endured. They have not let America down. WE CANNOT LET THEM DOWN ANY LONGER!

I know that when you see this film on national television, though you may be shocked, though you may be angered, you WILL be convinced, as am I, that our soldiers are still being held!

If you will send ADI a tax-deductible contribution of \$250 today, we will be able to raise the \$300,000 necessary to get on national television.

I believe so strongly in this mission, that if for some reason our program doesn't air, I will gladly return your gift.

But it MUST air, because our men are still prisoners, AND WE CAN PROVE IT!

I have nowhere else to turn. I know I'm asking you to make a sacrifice.

Every day we delay is another day in torture for our men.

EO 12812-2

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[REDACTED] what would you do if one of these were your own son?

What would you want me to do if one were you?

I pray that you will find a way to help. We must move as quickly as possible. Even if you cannot send \$250, perhaps you can send \$125--or even \$75. But whatever you can do, I pray that you do it now!

This is not only the most worthy appeal I will ever make, it is the most urgent, for every day we delay is another day our heroes fight desperately for survival.

If you wish further information before making your contribution, please call me at (202) 544-4704. If I can't speak to you personally, I will have one of my senior staff explain to you just how vital our mission is.

Do you realize some of these men have now been held for as long as TWENTY YEARS? That's seven thousand, three hundred days!

\$250 is only \$12.50 for every YEAR some of these heroes have been held hostage. That's less than FIVE CENTS for every day.

Is that really too much to ask for?

But whatever you can send today in the enclosed envelope to help, you may rest assured that you have done your part to restore America's honor.

I promise to tell all of our hostages, when they are finally freed, of the vital role you played in their release. I wish you would write a brief note on the enclosed card, which I will personally hand to the first man to regain his freedom.

And after I receive your check, I will write you immediately and let you know how close we are to airing our film in the Randolph area.

Then stand by your television for the most riveting program you'll ever see.

God bless you, [REDACTED] and...

God bless our forgotten men,

Red McDaniel
Eugene "Red" McDaniel
Captain, USN (Ret)

EBM:pj

P.S. I have enclosed a brochure which presents more detail on this national tragedy.

YOU CAN HELP

Please help the American Defense Institute continue its efforts on behalf of the POW-MIA issue. Your tax-deductible contributions will help greatly to:

- Continue to seek public support for a Presidential Commission (to resolve the issue.)
- Buy air time to bring the issue to the attention of the American people and others.
- Pay for printing, postage, and materials.
- Hold press conferences to further public awareness.
- Research and publish fact sheets and distribute all materials concerning this vital issue.

Make your checks payable to: American Defense Institute
Please be as generous as possible.

"The greatest homage we can pay to truth is to use it."
Emerson



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American Defense Institute

WE CAN WAIT NO LONGER



POWs-MIAs

*"Truth is not only violated by falsehood;
it may be equally violated by silence."*

Amiel

THE FATE OF OVER 2400 AMERICANS IS STILL UNKNOWN

More than a decade has passed since the last American Prisoner of War was returned from Southeast Asia. Overwhelming evidence points to the fact that some Americans listed as Missing in Action were retained against their will after the primary release in 1973.

The Evidence is Clear

- The government has over 790 first-hand eye-witness sightings of Americans being held in bondage in Southeast Asia. Forty-three of these sightings met various tests of validity. (9/30/85 up-date from the Defense Intelligence Agency)
- Congressman Douglas Applegate (D-OH) testified in 1984 before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee that he had a list of 97 CIA reports on tracking prisoners in Vietnam.
- Lt. General Eugene Tighe, former director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, said, "At the time I left the Defense Intelligence Agency, I felt strongly that there were still Americans being held against their will in Southeast Asia . . . I have seen nothing to change my view."
- Robert C. McFarlane, formerly National Security Advisor for President Reagan, told a private business group that he believes U.S. Prisoners of War are still being held in Indochina, and the U.S. should step up efforts to gather conclusive POW information.
- The latest top secret reports claim that a group of up to a dozen American POWs are being forced to do "technical work" for the Vietnamese. (Anderson and Van Atta, Washington Post, 9/18/85)
- During testimony at the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee hearings, Army Lt. Col. Robert Howard said, "I am convinced that we have live Americans in captivity in Southeast Asia." He also stated that, while assigned to the POW issue in Korea, he had intelligence information and photographs to substantiate that opinion. (Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee hearings, 1/30/86). Lt. Col. Howard is a Medal of Honor winner and is the most highly decorated soldier in the U.S. Army.
- Upon returning from their trip to Hanoi, the Congressional Delegation from the House Task Force on POWs/MIAs in Southeast Asia stated that there is no mistaking the fact that Americans are still being retained against their will in Indochina, and the question now is how to get all of them home. (Press Conference held 2/19/86)
- Of the 569 U.S. airmen shot down in Laos, not one has ever been released.

Unanswered Questions

- Regarding the government's identification of the alleged remains of MIA/KIA Lt. Col. Thomas Hart III, forensic anthropologist Dr. Chan declared, "It is scientifically impossible to identify the said bone fragments as the mortal remains of any individual." This statement expressed on behalf of Mrs. Hart casts serious doubt upon the government's efforts to resolve the POW-MIA issue.
- Private anthropologist Clyde Snow announced on September 3, 1985, that remains said, by the government, to be those of Maj. Hugh Fanning were insufficient to "positively identify".

- According to a key source in the Defense Intelligence Agency, approximately one hundred POWs still remain. He based this estimate on satellite photos, communications intercepts, and human reports. The evidence, he said, "... is overwhelming."
- On September, 1985, columnists Jack Anderson and Dale van Atta reported, "... the Defense Intelligence Agency has been blocking Members of Congress from scrutinizing its files on sightings of live American Prisoners of War in Southeast Asia. And the agency has prevailed upon the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence to go along with the information blackout."

★ ★ ★ Presidential Commission Requested ★ ★ ★

The American Defense Institute is spearheading a national campaign to generate a groundswell of public support for a thorough investigation of the POW-MIA tragedy. Join with us in asking the President and the Members of the United States Congress to assist in this investigation.

What You Can Do

Write a letter to President Reagan, your Senators, and your Congressman to express your support for a Presidential Commission headed by H. Ross Perot. This commission will thoroughly examine all of the existing evidence regarding the POWs/MIAs. Included is a sample letter which you might like to use as a guide.

Sample Letter

The Honorable _____
The White House/U.S. Senate/U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC 20500/20510/20515

Dear _____,

I strongly support the creation of a Presidential Commission, headed by H. Ross Perot, to fully examine all of the existing evidence pertinent to the POW-MIA issue. Please do everything in your power to see to it that such a commission is rapidly instated, so that we may obtain a full accounting of all POWs and MIAs in Southeast Asia. (These forgotten Americans can wait no longer.)

The Goals of the American Defense Institute Regarding the POW-MIA Issue

- Assist in proving the presence of live American Prisoners of War in Southeast Asia.
- Encourage the release of all Americans still held captive in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and throughout the world.
- Heighten the awareness of the American people about the fate of our POWs and MIAs.
- Urge the government to use every resource at its command to secure the release of our POWs and the accounting of those listed as Missing in Action.
- Create and maintain public, government, and media consciousness of live American POWs in Southeast Asia.
- Encourage the American people to call for the immediate resolution of this issue through a Presidential Commission, headed by H. Ross Perot, which will lead to the release of our POWs before it is too late.



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Dear Red,

I agree it is a matter of national honor that we not leave our POW/MIA's behind one more day. Your television program must air, because the public must demand that our men be brought home.

To acknowledge their sacrifice, I am making a sacrifice of my own, and am enclosing my tax-deductible check, payable to ADI, in the amount below. I understand you will personally present this card to the first of our men released. I have written a brief message on the back for this hero to read.

☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$125 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (O) _____ (H) _____

Please tear off this card and keep it as a reminder of the sacrifice being made by our brave American heroes.

**WE CAN WAIT
NO LONGER**



POWs-MIAs

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Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☐ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☐ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

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DATE 10/3/92 BY SP2
CIVIL DISCOVERY

DEAR [REDACTED]

IMPORTANT NEW TV SHOW AIRING OCTOBER 3RD, 10:30 P.M. (EDT) ON CHRISTIAN BROADCASTING NETWORK ABOUT AMERICAN POWS STILL HELD CAPTIVE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

PLEASE WATCH IF POSSIBLE AND TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS TO WATCH.

CAMPAIGN TO EDUCATE AMERICANS ABOUT POWS STILL IN SOUTHEAST ASIA HAS TAKEN ON NEW URGENCY.

LAOTIAN RESISTANCE RECENTLY REPORTED MAJOR MORGAN J. DONAHUE AND FIVE OTHER AMERICANS BEING HELD IN PRISON AT KHAM KEUT, LAOS.

ANTI-COMMUNIST RESISTANCE FIGHTER WROTE TO U.S. GOVERNMENT REPORTING SIGHTING OF MAJOR DONAHUE AND OTHERS.

HE INCLUDED MAJOR DONAHUE'S NAME, DATE OF BIRTH, IDENTITY OF DOWNED PLANE, AND PLANE'S NUMBER.

THIS INFORMATION HELD IMPORTANT CLUE PROVING DONAHUE STILL ALIVE.

PLANE'S NUMBER TURNED OUT TO BE ZIP CODE OF HOME DONAHUE LEFT IN 1968.

DONAHUE'S FATHER INSISTS THIS IS TYPE OF INFORMATION DONAHUE WOULD TRY TO SEND TO PROVE HE'S STILL ALIVE.

BUT WHEN FAMILY ASKED U.S. GOVERNMENT FOR ACTION, THEY WERE TOLD CASE WAS CLOSED.

THIS HARD EVIDENCE PROVES MAJOR DONAHUE IS ALIVE.

SOMETHING MUST BE DONE TO BRING THESE MEN HOME.

AMERICAN DEFENSE INSTITUTE'S POW POLICY CENTER ANNOUNCED ONE MILLION DOLLAR REWARD FOR ANY CITIZEN OF LAOS, CAMBODIA OR VIETNAM WHO BRINGS A LIVE AMERICAN POW OUT OF SOUTHEAST ASIA.

ANNOUNCEMENT GENERATED FRONT PAGE NEWSPAPER COVERAGE IN LAOS, CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM.

AND WE HAVE BOUGHT NEWSPAPER ADS IN SOUTHEAST ASIAN NEWSPAPERS PUBLICIZING REWARD.

WE WILL ALSO PLACE ADS IN VCR TAPES OF POPULAR MOVIES.

WE HAVE RECEIVED MANY INQUIRIES FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA ASKING IF REWARD IS NOT ONLY IS REWARD REAL, WE HAVE RAISED IT TO 2.4 MILLION DOLLARS IN GOLD. THIS WEEK, POW POLICY CENTER DIRECTOR BILL HENDON AND SIX POW/MIA FAMILY MEMBERS LEFT FOR THAILAND.

THEY WILL RELEASE THOUSANDS OF HELIUM BALLOONS WITH INFORMATION ON REWARD JUST 41 MILES FROM LOCATION WHERE MAJOR DONAHUE SPOTTED.

IF ONE AMERICAN RESCUED FROM COMMUNISTS, PUBLIC OUTCRY IN AMERICA AND AROUND THE WORLD WILL BE GREAT ENOUGH TO FREE OTHERS.

OVER PLEASE

WE MUST DO EVERYTHING WE CAN EDUCATE AMERICAN PEOPLE NOW.

I SPENT SIX YEARS IN "HANOI HILTON."

MAJOR DONAHUE HAS SPENT NINETEEN LONG YEARS IN HIS OWN PERSONAL HELL.

THAT'S WHY NEW TV SHOW -- CALLED ONLY THE STRONG -- IS SO IMPORTANT.

ONLY THE STRONG FEATURES U.S. CONGRESSMEN TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT POW SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

IF ENOUGH AMERICANS SEE ONLY THE STRONG, PUBLIC OUTCRY WILL FORCE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO ACT.

YOU CAN SEE ONLY THE STRONG ON OCTOBER 3RD AT 10:30 P.M. (EASTERN TIME) ON THE CHRISTIAN BROADCASTING NETWORK.

WE'RE WORKING DAY AND NIGHT TO RAISE ENOUGH MONEY TO AIR ONLY THE STRONG ON TV STATIONS ACROSS AMERICA.

IT'S EXPENSIVE. BUT WORTH EVERY PENNY IF WE CAN BRING OUR POWS HOME.

YOU AND I CAN'T SIT BACK AND ALLOW AMERICA TO TURN HER BACK ON THESE BRAVE MEN.

I NEED YOUR HELP IN TWO WAYS.

FIRST, TELL EVERYONE YOU KNOW ABOUT OCTOBER 3RD SHOWING OF ONLY THE STRONG.

MAKE SURE THEY WATCH IT AND TELL THEM HOW THEY CAN HELP.

SECOND, SEND TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO HELP PAY FOR AIRING ONLY THE STRONG ALL ACROSS AMERICA.

COST TO AIR ONLY THE STRONG ON OCTOBER 3RD ALONE IS \$18,225.

WILL COST AT LEAST \$100,000 MORE TO AIR SHOW ON OTHER TV STATIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

YOU AND I CAN'T LET THESE AMERICANS LANGUISH IN SOUTHEAST ASIA FOR ONE MORE DAY.

MUST DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO BRING THEM OUT.

PLEASE WATCH ONLY THE STRONG AND TELL EVERYONE YOU KNOW TO WATCH.

AND SEND TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO HELP PAY FOR AIRING ONLY THE STRONG ACROSS AMERICA.

BY WATCHING ONLY THE STRONG YOU WILL SEE WHAT YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS GOING FOR.

GOD BLESS YOU.

S/EUGENE B. (RED) MCDANIEL, CAPT, USN, RET.
PRESIDENT, AMERICAN DEFENSE INSTITUTE

*** PLEASE DETACH HERE AND RETURN IN ENVELOPE PROVIDED ***

DEAR CAPTAIN MCDANIEL:

☐ I AGREE THAT YOU AND I MUST DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO BRING HOME OUR POWS.

☐ TO HELP YOU AIR ONLY THE STRONG ON TV STATIONS ACROSS AMERICA.

I'VE ENCLOSED MY TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION OF:

\$15 \$25 \$100 \$500 \$1,000

FIRST CLASS PERMIT #15034 WASH DC
POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

AMERICAN DEFENSE INSTITUTE
214 MASSACHUSETTS AVE, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20013-2497

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NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

1608 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 223-6846

MEMORANDUM TO FAMILY MEMBERS, VETERANS AND CONCERNED CITIZENS

FROM: *AM* Ann Mills Griffiths, Executive Director

SUBJECT: REPORT ON TRIP TO SOUTHEAST ASIA

DATE: August 17, 1987

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DATE 10/3/93 BY SP5 [REDACTED]

EN ROUTE: As reported in the July 27th League Newsletter, General John W. Vessey, Jr., named by the President as his special POW/MIA emissary, was to meet in Hanoi with Vietnamese officials August 1st-3rd. The U.S. delegation included General Robert Kingston, USA-Retired, first commanding officer of the Joint Casualty Resolution Center (JCRC), National Security Council Director for Asian Affairs Richard Childress, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs David Lambertson, Brigadier General Steve Crocker, USAF, representing the Department of Defense, Colonel Andre Sauvageot, USA-Retired, official interpreter, and I represented the families as Executive Director of the League.

The delegation departed Andrews Air Force Base on July 28th on a Presidential fleet aircraft. At Hickam Air Force Base, in Hawaii, the delegation was met by Admiral Ronald J. Hays, USN, Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Forces, before going by helicopter to Naval Air Station Barbers Point for a comprehensive briefing at JCRC Headquarters. A second short helicopter flight delivered the delegation to the Fort Shafter location of the Central Identification Laboratory (CIL) where a thorough briefing on their improved capabilities was conducted as well as a tour of the scientific lab and computer data base facilities.

Departing early the next morning, the delegation had a brief refueling stop at Anderson Air Force Base, Guam, before arriving in Bangkok, Thailand, late on the afternoon of July 30th, to be met by U.S. Ambassador to Thailand William A. Brown. The following day was filled with briefings at the U.S. Embassy, a luncheon for General Vessey, the delegation and senior Thai officials at the Ambassador's residence and final preparations for the meetings in Hanoi.

Upon arrival at Noi Bai Airport, the delegation was met by Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien and other Vietnamese officials. We stayed at the Foreign Ministry Guest House where POW/MIA delegations have stayed since 1984.

Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers Nguyen Co Thach (also Foreign Minister) led the Vietnamese delegation which included Deputy Foreign Minister Nien, the Director and Deputy Director for North American Affairs and other Vietnamese officials.

Numerous plenary sessions were held in addition to more restricted discussions. The resultant agreements included Vietnam's pledge to renew POW/MIA cooperation, focusing initially on the discrepancy cases and those listed as died in captivity in the south. Both governments reaffirmed that cooperation on POW/MIA and other humanitarian issues would be pursued separate from political matters.

information on the prosthetics situation in Vietnam, a report will be issued by the USG to American non-governmental organizations (NGO's). Any decision to assist Vietnam in meeting prosthetics needs will be made independent of the USG, and no official funds will be involved.

AFTERMATH OF VESSEY MISSION: Following on the heels of the two technical sessions held in Hanoi, the NEW YORK TIMES mistakenly reported that the US Government intended to provide humanitarian assistance to Vietnam in exchange for cooperation in resolving the POW/MIA issue. They also reported that the US intended to lift the trade embargo as part of the process. This September 6th report is untrue; however, there was significant reaction since the NEW YORK TIMES is read widely for information on international relations. The State Department issued a correction, part of which was carried the next day in the NEW YORK TIMES. A UPI release noted that Vietnam is covered under the US Trading with the Enemy Act which forbids all imports and exports except for certain humanitarian aid that must be authorized by specific government licenses, adding that US Treasury regulations also prohibit the transfer of any US currency to Vietnam.

Asean Reaction: The Foreign Minister of Singapore was misquoted initially as opposed to what was reported as official US Government humanitarian aid to the Vietnamese. Having obtained the full text of his remarks, it is clear that he considered private (NGO) humanitarian assistance as "not out of line with our (ASEAN) approach to the whole question of aid" to Vietnam. The Thai and Indonesian governments also reacted by stating that private humanitarian assistance was acceptable, though expressing concern that any assistance, even humanitarian private aid, strengthens the Vietnamese economy, thus enabling continued military occupation of Cambodia. Thai press coverage also referred to General Vessey's promise that "The US will not do anything to weaken ASEAN's position on Kampuchea (Cambodia)."

Editorials which appeared in ASEAN media also questioned why the US would permit Vietnam to "exploit" the POW/MIA issue. An editorial in Singapore's STRAIGHTS TIMES stated, "The US, by allowing private organizations to help Vietnam in exchange for cooperation on the MIA issue, has given Hanoi cause to believe that such callous, cynical manipulation pays." They further noted that "Hanoi is perfectly capable of handing over token MIA remains and inducing false expectations before it suddenly demands a higher price for further cooperation. There can be no better time to effect such a scheme than the run-up to the US presidential elections, where candidates wanting to come out looking good on the MIA issue may well concede to Vietnam's demands. What then will become of ASEAN's policy of isolating Vietnam internationally until it withdraws from Cambodia, a policy the US says it supports?"

Comment: It is critical that current US policy to resolve the POW/MIA issue not conflict with or undermine ASEAN policy on Cambodia. The prompt reactions by leading ASEAN nations demonstrate the sensitivity of perceived concessions to Vietnam in exchange for POW/MIA cooperation. Other concerns include:

- Equating US attention (much less assistance) to the problem of Vietnamese disabled as any form of "reparations" to war victims or those injured by US weapons could easily cause negative reaction in America, even disassociation from the initiative.



EUGENE B. MCDANIEL
PRESIDENT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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U.S.A. RET.
FORMER COMMANDER
U.S. FORCES VIETNAM

ADM THOMAS MOORER
U.S.N. RET.
FORMER CHAIRMAN
JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

LTGEN JOHN PETER FLYNN
U.S.A.F. RET.
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

MAJGEN ELLIOTT ROOSEVELT
U.S.A.F. RET.
INDIAN WELLS, CALIFORNIA

RADM ROBERT M. GARRICK
U.S.N. RET.
FORMER DEPUTY COUNSELOR TO
PRESIDENT REAGAN

RADM EDWARD OUTLAW
U.S.N. RET.
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

MRS. NANCY SCHULZE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

MRS. HOLLY COORS
GOLDEN, COLORADO

MR. WILLIAM MURCHISON
DALLAS MORNING NEWS

MRS. ELLEN GARWOOD
AUSTIN, TEXAS

September 17, 1987

Sgt.
Box

EO 12812-2 b7c
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 10/2/92 BY SP5 [REDACTED]

Dear Sgt.

Will you sign the enclosed petition to Secretary of State George Shultz calling on him to go to Laos and demand the release of American POWs recently seen there?

And will you help me tell the American people about the tragedy of American POWs still being held captive in Southeast Asia?

Let me tell you about hard evidence that has recently surfaced proving that an American is being held in Laos.

The anti-communist Laotian resistance movement reported just a few months ago that Major Morgan J. Donahue and five other Americans were being held captive in Kham Keut, Laos.

Major Donahue crashed in Laos on December 13, 1968 -- nineteen years ago.

This spring, a Laotian resistance fighter wrote to the Pentagon and told them he had obtained Major Donahue's name, date of birth, the identity of his downed plane, and the plane's number.

Of course, some of this information could be easily discovered with a little bit of research.

But there was an important signal in the information that proves it came from Major Donahue.

Rather than stating the correct number of the aircraft, the number turned out to be the zip code of the home Morgan left in 1968.

Major Donahue's father insists that this is exactly the type of information his son would try to

send to prove he is still alive.

But when the family asked the government what was being done to bring Major Donahue home, they were told the case was closed.

Even with hard evidence, the government refuses to act.

That's why I've enclosed a Petition for you to sign which calls on Secretary of State Shultz to immediately go to Laos and demand the release of Major Donahue and the other American POWs we know the Laotian Communists are holding.

When the Ayatollah took Americans hostage and kept them for more than a year, Americans were outraged and demanded action.

A handful of Americans were taken captive in Beirut and our government embarked on an ill-conceived "arms for hostages" swap.

Yet when it is absolutely clear that we left hundreds of POWs behind in Southeast Asia, our government refuses to act.

Your petition (and petitions from thousands of Americans) will force the government to do more to bring our POWs home.

I will hold a press conference at the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. to announce the results of our petition drive and call on George Shultz to act -- immediately -- to free our POWs.

Secretary Shultz can't ignore demands from the American people that he go to Laos and demand the release of Major Donahue and all other Americans still being held.

So please sign the enclosed petition and return it to me today. Thank you.

Now let me tell you what else we're doing to bring our POWs home.

As you know, former Congressman Bill Hendon and I formed the American Defense Institute's POW Policy Center ~~to serve~~ as a guiding force in the effort to win the release of our POWs.

In April, we announced a reward of \$1,000,000 in gold to any citizen of Laos, Cambodia or Vietnam who would bring a live American POW out of Southeast Asia.

The reward has generated enormous interest in Asia.

I can't tell you the specifics, but we have received a number of inquiries from Southeast Asia from people risking their lives to contact us to see if the reward is real.

Not only is it real...we have increased the reward from one million dollars to \$2.4 million!

Our announcements have generated front page newspaper

coverage in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

In addition, we have bought print ads in Southeast Asia publicizing the reward.

We will also place TV ads in popular VCR movie tapes that we hope will gain wide distribution in Southeast Asia.

And this week, former Congressman Hendon and nine POW family members left for Thailand where they will release helium balloons with information on the \$2.4 million reward just 41 miles from where Major Donahue was spotted.

We're doing everything we can think of to bring a live American POW out of Southeast Asia.

Believe me, when one American walks out of the jungle alive, the worldwide outrage will force the release of the rest of them.

But we're not putting all of our eggs in one basket.

We must also educate the American people and convince them of the awful truth.

The truth they really don't want to know -- that our government abandoned hundreds of Americans at the end of the Vietnam War and left them to rot in Communist prison camps.

I spent six years in the "Hanoi Hilton."

Major Donahue has been in his own personal Hell for nineteen long years.

I know that once Americans become convinced of the truth, they won't rest until Major Donahue and the other survivors are brought home.

This petition drive is one way we are attempting to educate the people.

But our major effort is a new half-hour video tape which features Congressmen telling the American people the truth about the men who are languishing in Southeast Asia right now -- today.

You can see this tape, called Only the Strong, on Saturday night, October 3rd, from 10:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. EDT on the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN).

I hope you will be able to watch this important show.

We're working day and night to raise enough money to air Only the Strong on TV stations around the country.

It's expensive. But it's worth every penny if we can bring our POWs home.

You and I can't sit back and allow America to turn her back

on these brave men.

There are three ways you can help.

First, please sign the enclosed petition calling on George Shultz to go to Laos and demand the release of Major Morgan J. Donahue and other Americans being held captive in Laos.

Major Donahue risked his life to send us a signal that he is still alive.

We can't turn our backs on him now.

Second, watch Only the Strong on Saturday, October 3rd, at 10:30 p.m. (Eastern Daylight Time) on the Christian Broadcasting Network.

Tell your friends, neighbors and family to watch it, too.

I'm convinced that if enough Americans see Only the Strong, the public outcry will be so loud that the government won't be able to say no to demands that something be done to bring our men home.

And third, will you send a tax-deductible contribution to help us air Only the Strong on TV stations all across America?

It will cost us \$18,225 to air Only the Strong just once on CBN.

And it will cost at least another \$100,000 to buy television time on other stations all across America.

You and I can't let those Americans languish in Southeast Asia for one more day.

We must do everything we can to bring them out.

So please, take a moment right now and write a check to help us tell the American people the truth about American POWs left behind in Southeast Asia.

And watch Only the Strong on October 3rd. You will see exactly what your contribution is being used for.

Your help is urgently needed. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Eugene B. (Red) McDaniel
CAPT, USN, Ret.

P.S. I've enclosed two newspaper clippings with more information on the plight of our POWs in Southeast Asia. You and I must do everything we can to bring them home.



AMERICAN LEAGUE OF FAMILIES

OF PRISONERS OF WAR IN LAOS

EO 12812-2

67C

PRESS RELEASE

MARCH 27, 1987

P.O. BOX 11388

WASHINGTON DC. 20008-0888

PRESS CONFERENCE - NATIONAL PRESS BUILDING

On Monday, March 30, 1987 at 1:30 p.m., a press conference will be held on the 13th floor of the National Press Building by family members of American servicemen still missing from the Vietnam War.

** An FBI investigation is being conducted into the activities of National Security Council staffer, Col. Richard T. Childress, relative to possible illegal interference into a congressional campaign. The investigation stems from charges that Childress and other officials struck a deal involving the Drug Enforcement Agency with former New York Congressman John LeBoutillier. LeBoutillier was to have received DEA ID's, cover for use in intelligence gathering in Southeast Asia on American Prisoners of War, and \$40,000.00 per month. In return, LeBoutillier was asked to discredit then congressional candidate, William Hendon.

**Participants in the press conference will present affidavits that allege that Col. Richard Childress has used the same illicit tactics as did Oliver North in advancing National Security Council's interpretation of Reagan policies.

**Participants will call for the appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate the matter and determine other officials involved.

**Featured in the conference:

- (1) Col. Earl Hopper, former Chairman of the Board of the National League of Families and the father of a serviceman still missing in Vietnam, who filed an affidavit in the Eastern District Court for North Carolina attesting to Childress' manipulation of LeBoutillier, attempted discrediting of Hendon and attempted manipulation of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia.
- (2) Video screening of a television news interview in which both LeBoutillier and National League Executive Director, Ann Mills Griffiths are shown discussing the matter.
- (3) Copies of affidavits filed in Federal District Court relative to the alleged Childress - LeBoutillier conspiracy.
- (4) Family members of American servicemen representing seven states will be available for questions and comment.

For information contact:

Sherill Long (MIA daughter): (303) 540-0184 (H) Rockville, MD
Dr. Bruce Adams (MIA brother): (202) 636-4285 from Cheyenne, WY
Margaret Nevin (Homecoming II) (913) 432-1518 Shawnee Mission, KS

"We Want Our Men Home Alive!"

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NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

1606 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 223-6846

MEMORANDUM TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FROM: *[Signature]* Ann Mills Griffiths, Executive Director

SUBJECT: LEAGUE POSITION ON MONTGOMERY RESOLUTION (H.CON. RES. 118)

DATE: May 13, 1987

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DATE 10/19/92 BY SP-6

EO 12812-2
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The National League of Families appreciates the sentiment behind Representative Montgomery's resolution. We, too, have taken a position of mutual cooperation. Under their two-year plan, Vietnam had taken some steps which were welcomed by the Families. For the past six months, however, no policy or technical level meetings have been scheduled by Vietnam in spite of numerous requests by the U.S. Government.

At present, the U.S. Government is awaiting agreement on dates proposed for discussions between U.S. and Vietnamese representatives, to establish a realistic agenda and terms of reference for the proposed mission by Presidential emissary General Jack Vessey, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. It is crucial that Vietnam reaffirm willingness to cooperate on a separate humanitarian basis, not linked to normalization of relations or other political matters which divide the two countries.

Unilateral steps by the United States, as envisioned in the Montgomery resolution, should be considered by the U.S. if there are genuine agreements reached by the President's emissary and if such steps would be directly related and logistically or administratively necessary to carry out these agreements. As written, the resolution calls for immediate establishment of reciprocal technical offices. The League holds the view that such a step should only be considered as a result of firm agreements on cooperation, i.e. resolved clause (1).

At the same time, the League encourages the U.S. Government to seek incentives to obtain greater progress and to signal Vietnam of U.S. willingness to work toward mutual cooperation on these bilateral concerns.



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
1608 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 223-6846

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
September 17, 1987

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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DATE 10/2/92 BY SP2

Contact: 223-6846
Ann Mills Griffiths
Colleen Shine

EO 12812-2

b7c

FAMILIES OPPOSE REWARD/BALLOON RELEASE

The National League of POW/MIA Families strongly opposes the bizarre actions of the POW Policy Center, headed by Red McDaniel and his representative former Congressman Billy Hendon, now in Thailand attempting to release balloons on the Thai/Lao border to advertise a reward for an American POW.

In the past such offers have failed, but have generated false reports and strong denials by the Lao and Vietnamese that Americans are still held. Both phenomena have already been reported. This theatrical stunt to exploit the President's serious priority, especially on the heels of General Vessey's recent mission to Hanoi and another official delegation to Laos, is unrealistic, immature and damages efforts to return Americans, alive or dead.

The Thai Government's decision to stop the balloon release is logical, based upon their own foreign policy interests and their realistic knowledge of how to resolve the issue. Thailand's expression of concern for our POW/MIAs and their ongoing support and assistance to U.S. Government efforts on the issue are deeply appreciated and recognized as valuable to the process.

The League urges the Lao and Vietnamese governments to view this for what it is - the foolish effort of uninformed and misguided private citizens who do not represent the U.S. Government, the families or the Congress. The League looks forward to serious implementation of agreements reached with both governments to move forward rapidly in a spirit of cooperation.

Field File No. _____

Serial # of Originating Document _____

OO and File No. WIF 58A-2155-1A (16)

Date Received 10-15-88

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Serial(s) 13-15, dated 7/3 - 10/2/87,
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Field File No. 58A-2155-1A-17

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